

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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## BRINGING BACK THE MEMORIES

Wife fulfills late husband's dream of returning 60-year-old album to Okinawan family » Page 3

LISA TOURTELLO/Stars and Stripes

Masako "Iha" Sunabe browses through her sister's photo album on Jan. 12 in Chatan, Okinawa, recalling faces and memories from almost 70 years ago.

## American could be the target of drone attack

By KIMBERLY DOZIER  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — An American citizen who is a member of al-Qaida is actively planning attacks against Americans overseas, U.S. officials say, and the Obama administration is wrestling with whether to kill him with a drone strike and how to do so legally under its stricter targeting policy issued last year.

The CIA drones watching him cannot strike because he's a U.S.

citizen and the Justice Department must build a case against him, a task it hasn't completed. Four U.S. officials said the American suspected terrorist is in a country that refuses U.S. military action on its soil and that has proved unable to go after him. President Barack Obama's new policy says American suspected terrorists overseas can be killed only by the military, not the CIA, creating a policy conundrum for the White House.

SEE TARGET ON PAGE 2



CHARLES DHARAPAK/AP

House Intelligence Committee Chairman Rep. Mike Rogers, R-Mich., says a number of terrorist suspects are all but out of reach under the Obama administration's new rules that limit drone strikes based on the target's nationality or location.

## Decades later, disarmament program still proves its worth

By STEVEN BEARDSLEY  
Stars and Stripes

NAPLES, Italy — When the breakup of the Soviet Union stranded thousands of nuclear warheads in unsecured sites across Russia and the former Soviet republics in 1991, Congress approved a \$400 million emergency fund within the Pentagon to help dismantle and protect the loose arms.

Two decades later, the Nunn-Lugar Cooperative Threat Reduction program, named for the two senators who pushed the original legislation, remains an active and widely celebrated disarmament and nonproliferation program within the Defense Department.

Since 1991, it has helped dismantle more than 7,600 warheads, destroy more than 900 intercontinental ballistic missiles and remove nuclear weapons from countries like Kazakhstan and Ukraine.

As last month's destruction of a final cache of Libya's chemical weapons showed, the program's efforts now go beyond the boundaries of the former Soviet Union and into countries like Africa and Asia where it increasingly focuses on securing or destroying biological and chemical weapons.

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### PACIFIC

US bases digging out from Japan's worst snowstorm in years

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### VETERANS

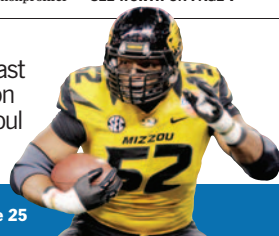
Congress works to eliminate bonuses for VA executives

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### MIDEAST

3 killed in blast near detention center in Kabul

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Top NFL prospect Michael Sam says he's gay » Page 25

## QUOTE OF THE DAY

"You've got these runway lights and you are looking at them, and they're saying: 'Come to me, come to me. I will let you land.' They're like the sirens of the ocean."

—Michael Barr, who teaches aviation safety at the University of Southern California, explaining how pilots sometimes err and approach the wrong airport for landing

See story on Page 9

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## MIDEAST

# Afghan attack kills 3 foreign advisers

By HEATH DRUZIN  
Stars and Stripes

KABUL — An explosion rocked eastern Kabul on Monday near one of the country's main detention centers, killing three foreign military advisers, Afghan security officials said.

Another foreigner and seven civilians were injured in the car bomb attack in an eastern suburb of Kabul near Pul-e Charki Prison. A foreign convoy was hit by the suicide bomber after leaving the prison, according to Afghan security officials.

The NATO-led International Security Assistance Force would confirm only that two contract civilians working for them were killed by a car bomb in eastern Afghanistan. ISAF did not confirm whether it was the same bombing.

The attack occurred within sight of the prison. Body parts were strewn about the street, and two crumpled cars and scattered charred debris could be seen at the site.

Several ISAF armored trucks were at the scene, as was a large contingent of American troops.

A spokesman for the militant group Hezb-i-Islami, Haroon Zarghoun, said the group was behind the attack and claimed 13 foreign military advisers were killed, although insurgents often exaggerate casualty claims.

Hezb-i-Islami is seen by many as the insurgent group most likely to reconcile with the Afghan government, although it still occasionally carries out major attacks.



JOHN SMITH/Stars and Stripes

Troops with the International Security Assistance Force secure the scene of a suicide bombing on Monday in Kabul that killed at least two foreign contractors working for the NATO-led coalition.

The group's loosely connected political wing already participates in the political process and contests elections in the country.

Mir Wali, who owns a corner shop near the bomb site, said the explosion shattered his windows and that he saw two heavily damaged SUVs in the aftermath.

"I was drinking tea in my shop, and suddenly there was a big explosion that shook my shop, and I heard glass breaking," he said.

There has been a series of attacks recently in the Afghan capital. They come a time of year when violence generally ebbs in Afghanistan, as many insurgents spend the winter in Pakistani redoubts. Analysts believe the attacks are intended to demonstrate the insurgents' ability to strike at will even inside the heavily guarded city.

Last month, insurgents attacked a Kabul restaurant popular with

foreigners, killing 21 people. About a week later, a suicide bomb attack on an Afghan military bus killed four people and wounded 22 others.

As Afghan security forces have taken over much of the day-to-day fighting, casualty numbers among foreigners have dropped, though they are still targeted from time to time, especially by bomb attacks.

druzin.heath@stripes.com  
Twitter: @Druzin\_Stripes

## Target: American described as al-Qaida facilitator who plans IED attacks

### FROM FRONT PAGE

Two of the officials described the man as an al-Qaida facilitator who has been directly responsible for deadly attacks against U.S. citizens overseas and who continues to plan attacks against them that would use improvised explosive devices.

But one U.S. official said the Defense Department was divided over whether the man is dangerous enough to merit the potential domestic fallout of killing an American without charging him with a crime or trying him, and the potential international fallout of such

an operation in a country that has been resistant to U.S. action. Another of the U.S. officials said the Pentagon had ultimately decided to recommend lethal action.

The officials said the suspected terrorist is well-guarded and in a fairly remote location, so any unilateral attempt by U.S. troops to capture him would be risky.

Under new guidelines Obama addressed in a speech last year to calm anger overseas at the extent of the U.S. drone campaign, lethal force must only be used "to prevent or stop attacks against U.S. persons, and even then, only

when capture is not feasible and no other reasonable alternatives exist to address the threat effectively." The target must also pose "a continuing, imminent threat to U.S. persons" — the legal definition of catching someone in the act of plotting a lethal attack.

The Associated Press has agreed to the government's request to withhold the name of the country where the suspected terrorist is believed to be because officials said publishing it could interrupt ongoing counterterror operations.

The officials spoke on condition

of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the classified drone targeting program publicly.

House of Representatives Intelligence Committee Chairman Mike Rogers, R-Mich., complained last week that the administration's new rules put a number of terrorist suspects all but out of reach.

A senior administration official said the president could make an exception to his policy and authorize the CIA to strike on a one-time basis or authorize the Pentagon to act despite the possible objections of the country in question.

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## PACIFIC

# 'The album needs to go home'

By LISA TOURTELOT  
*Stars and Stripes*

**I**n 1945, Francis "Duke" Wieden found a photo album buried in the sand on an Okinawan beach. It was a curious find, given the devastation of war on the island, and one that struck a chord with the young Navy officer.

Almost seven decades later — and two years after Wieden's death — his family assembled outside the Irei Association meeting hall here, excited and tense as they waited to go inside to greet the family of the album's owner.

The two families would finally meet.

## April 1, 1945: A disturbing find

Andy Anderson said Duke Wieden had a big heart and a bigger smile. He once told Wieden's second wife, Carolyn, that Wieden greeted wounded soldiers on the beach with a cheeky grin, telling them that they were only 10 minutes away from the hospital ship Hope — home of the best doctors and prettiest nurses.

"Andy said he knew some of them didn't make it, but Duke gave them peace of mind for their last few minutes," Carolyn Wieden said. "Those who did make it will always remember Duke's smile and quiet valor."

The USS Latimer had offloaded the troops of the 96th Infantry Division onto beaches Brown 1 and 2 — where Chatan, Okinawa, is now. Wieden was among the soldiers and sailors who came ashore after a heavy shelling of the area.

He spotted the soggy, sandy album, filled with pictures of a family, children and friends. No one knows how it got there.

Anderson would later explain that Wieden was grievously upset by his find.

He wanted to return it to its family, knowing that the photos could be the only record of happier times. Just three weeks earlier, he had been overjoyed to learn that his first son, Dan, was born in Portland, Ore. Carolyn Wieden said she believed the fear that he might never meet his son drove him to be so protective of the album.

Wieden brought the album back to



The Wieden family officially returns the Mitsuko Sunabe's photo album during a ceremony in Chatan, Okinawa, on Jan. 12.



PHOTOS BY LISA TOURTELOT/Stars and Stripes

Masako "Iha" Sunabe and Carolyn Wieden embrace after the Wieden family formally returned Mitsuko Sunabe's photo album on Jan. 12 in Chatan, Okinawa.

his bunk on ship and eventually, back to his home in Oregon — where he never spoke of it again.

## April 1, 1945: Fleeing to the north

Air raid drills were common on Okinawa; families were taught that suicide was the best option if they were cornered by Americans. They were told they would be issued two grenades — one for the enemy, one for themselves.

Masako "Iha" Sunabe's older sister, Mitsuko, was in charge of getting a group of residents to a predetermined safe area, but drowned almost six months earlier while crossing a river on the way to safety.

When the sirens sounded on April 1, 1945, 15-year-old Iha had only enough time to grab a few handfuls of brown sugar cubes for sustenance and run for the hills with her family. When the shelling began, Iha and her family were fleeing to the north, the start of a terrifying journey.

"The entire sea, all along the island, was covered with American vessels and ships," she recalled.

The sugar cubes did not last long. Within weeks of their escape, food became scarce.

"My brother went down into the village to look for something, just a leaf of cabbage or anything. There was nothing to be had," Iha said. "What we did was take boots or leather belts, wash them in the river, try to cut them into pieces and boil them until they were edible, which you probably wouldn't want to eat."

When hunger left one of Iha's nieces crying uncontrollably, her family was instructed by Japanese soldiers garrisoned nearby to kill the child because she was making too much noise.

"Luckily, the Japanese soldiers who were with us only had two grenades," Iha said. "One they planned to use on any American soldiers who got close enough, and one for their own group as the soldiers closed in." That left no grenade to be used to kill the child. "She survived due to the fact that they only had two grenades left."

## March 2012: 'The last thing I can do'

Duke Wieden left the Navy after the war, and had two more children — Ken and Sherrie — with his wife, Violet, who later died from a stroke. In 1995, he married Carolyn

Browder and they merged families. The couple spent 17 years together. After enduring heart attacks and dementia for nine years, Wieden died Feb. 20, 2012.

A few weeks after the funeral, Ken Wieden decided to open his father's Navy trunk, which had sat in a basement, unopened, for more than 60 years.

He found uniforms, photos, mementos and the Okinawa album, damaged but full of images. He took it to his stepmother, but she had no idea what it was.

Unsure where else to turn, she called Anderson.

**SEE HOME ON PAGE 4**



Dan Wieden prepares to return the photo album found by his father during the battle for Okinawa in 1945 during World War II.



## PACIFIC



LISA TOURTELLO/Stars and Stripes

The Sunabe family, former members and relatives of the Irei Association, and the Wieden clan pose together after the Wiedens formally returned the Sunabe family's photo album in Chafan, Okinawa, on Jan. 12.

## Home: Widow says returning album is 'last thing I can do for Duke'

### FROM PAGE 3

It turned out that he was with Wieden the day he found it. He explained how upset Wieden had been, and that he had hopes of returning it to its rightful owner one day.

That resolve became her own. "It's the last thing I can do for Duke," she recalled saying at the time. "And I believe the album needs to go home."

### October 2012-April 2013: The search

Carolyn's son, Lee Wall, and his girlfriend jumped at the chance to help. Sophie Lee said she could translate some of the Japanese in the album and identified a few very common names, but little else.

The trio got in touch with an Okinawan government official, but never got an answer about the names.

Wieden's wife carefully removed the photos from the moldering album and cleaned each one. She kept them in order and placed them in a new album.

Weeks turned into months without progress. One day, he expressed her frustration to her guitar teacher, Rene Berblinger, who said he had friends who could translate Japanese characters.

Within weeks, she had a page-by-page translation, including the name and address of the album's owner: Mitsuko Sunabe, of Chafan, near where Duke Wieden came ashore so many years ago.

### June 2013: A new connection on Okinawa

While having coffee at his favorite spot in Portland, by sheer coinci-



Courtesy of Wieden family

**Above:** Francis "Duke" Wieden as a young U.S. Navy lieutenant, circa 1944. **Right:** Erik Lundberg, a teacher at Kadena Elementary School, recognized the Irei Association logo on the girls' shirts in this photo. **Family members later confirmed that Mitsuko Sunabe is seen in the far right corner of the photo.**



PHOTOS BY LISA TOURTELLO/Stars and Stripes

dence, Rene met Erik Lundberg, who was visiting from his home on Okinawa. Excited to help in the search, Lundberg offered to do some legwork on the island.

Lundberg recognized an organization logo on the clothing of children in several photographs. With help from the Chafan city offices, Lundberg got in touch with the Irei Association, a youth group.

Erik showed members of the group photocopies he'd made of the album pages. A man there recognized the names and a person in the photos. Another woman recognized herself.

By October, Lundberg met with

Mitsuko Sunabe's nephews, who meticulously compared birth certificates, dates, faces and names. By Nov. 2, they confirmed that the album belonged to their aunt.

"This is a very important thing for all of us," Iha Sunabe said later. "Nothing else really survived. There was just one picture that had her in it."

### Jan. 12, 2014: Destiny

Iha Sunabe, with nephews Katsuhide and Nakamura and relatives of former Irei Association members, waited in the group's new building to

meet the Wieden family. They gathered around, pointing out faces they recognized in dark, blurry photocopies of the album's pages.

Carolyn Wieden led the way in, grinning, and introduced herself to Iha Sunabe. Before the album changed hands, Dan Wieden, Duke's oldest son, and his stepmother gave thanks to the Sunabe family.

"It does seem as if something magical is happening that brings us together," he said.

Iha Sunabe could barely contain her excitement as she unwrapped the album. Her wide smile lit up the room and she pointed at each picture of Mitsuko saying, "My sister, my sister!"

Katsuhide Sunabe explained that since the album features so many members of their former community — Irei village is now Camp Lester — the album will stay in the Irei Association building for all to enjoy.

The Wiedens also returned the original binding that once housed the photos, and they gave the family a new album with the same photos, blown up into higher resolution, to keep in their home.

Lastly, they included an album of their own family, so the Sunabes could know a little about Wieden.

"I want this trip to be one of healing, forgiveness and peace," Carolyn Wieden said. "That's what we all need to work for."

The group ended the ceremony with a formal toast in Japanese tradition. They gathered at Lundberg's home for a lunch while they shared stories about their lives and celebrated the album's return.

"It must have been some kind of destiny," Iha Sunabe said.

tourtello.lisa@stripes.com

## Cape Ray to hold in Spain until Syria turns over stockpile

By JON HARPER  
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The MV Cape Ray, which is on a mission to destroy Syria's chemical weapons, will be held up indefinitely in Rota, Spain, while the international community waits for the Syrian regime to hand over the remain-

der of its stockpile, the DOD announced Monday.

The Cape Ray left Portsmouth, Va., on Jan. 27. It was scheduled to make a brief port call in Rota en route to the Italian port of Gioia Tauro, where it is supposed to transload Syrian mustard gas and chemical weapon precursor materials from Scandinavian ships

and then sail into international waters. Once there, the plan calls for American engineers and scientists to use the Field Deployable Hydrolysis System onboard the vessel to neutralize the chemicals.

The Syrian government has handed over only a small fraction of its stockpile, even though all of the chemicals were supposed

to have been shipped out of Syria by Feb. 5. The 135 U.S. personnel in the mission can't do their jobs until the full stockpile has been relinquished to the international community. When that will happen is unknown.

harpert.jon@stripes.com  
Twitter: @HarperStripes

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## PACIFIC

# US, S. Korea set plans for annual training

By ASHLEY ROWLAND  
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — The U.S. and South Korea announced plans Monday for two annual spring military exercises amid questions of whether Seoul will assume wartime control of allied forces as planned next year.

The Key Resolve command post exercise will take place Feb. 24-March 6, and the Foal Eagle field training exercise will run Feb. 24-April 18, according to the U.S. military.

North Korea has in recent weeks said the two countries should cancel the drills. The yearly announcement of the dates typically prompts scathing responses from Pyongyang.

Adm. Samuel Locklear, head of the U.S. Pacific Command, told a press briefing last month that the exercises will go ahead despite any criticism from the North.

"It shouldn't be alarming," he said. "It's not a change. We do these every year. And we're going to continue to do them as long as the risks on the Korean peninsula persist."

Approximately 12,700 U.S. troops will participate in the drills, with nearly half arriving from off the peninsula. About 200,000 South Korean troops will participate, with all but 10,000 taking part in Foal Eagle, according to the Ministry of National Defense.

"The scenarios are realistic, enabling us to train on our essential tasks and respond to any crisis which may arise," U.S. Forces Korea commander Gen. Curtis Scaparrotti said of Key Resolve in a statement released by the U.S. military.

As the top U.S. commander, Scaparrotti also heads the Combined Forces Command and would lead both U.S. and Korean troops during wartime, a responsibility scheduled to be transferred to the top South Korean commander in December 2015.

Last year's Key Resolve was the first led by the South Korean Joint Chiefs of Staff and not the CFC, and was essentially a dress rehearsal for the 2015 transfer.

However, South Korea has requested a delay due to concerns over the threat posed by North Korea. A decision on whether to postpone the transfer, which was initially supposed to happen in 2007 but has been postponed twice, is expected later this year.

Key Resolve and Foal Eagle, along with the late summer Ulchi Freedom Guardian, are the largest joint exercises held in South

Korea each year. About 5,200 U.S. servicemembers will participate in Key Resolve, and 7,500 will participate in Foal Eagle.

The two allies will employ a new "tailored deterrence" strategy for the exercises that targets the North Korean nuclear threat.

Officials have released virtually no information about the strat-

egy, agreed on by the U.S. and South Korea last fall, other than to say it is still in the conceptual stage and will be refined after exercises.

During last year's spring exercises, North Korea leveled a series of threats at the U.S. and South Korea, significantly heightening tensions to the point that the

U.S. flew nuclear-capable B-52s over the peninsula on a practice mission.

The U.S. beefed up its missile defense systems and conducted other shows of force that included F-22 fighters and a nuclear attack sub, while South Korea warned it would respond with force to even a small provocation

The United Nations Command has informed North Korea of the exercise dates, as well as the "nonprovocative" nature of the drills, according to the CFC. North Korea had not commented as of Monday afternoon.

Stars and Stripes reporter Yoo Kyong Chang contributed to this story. rowland.ashley@stripes.com



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**“We’re going to continue to do [training exercises] as long as the risks on the Korean peninsula persist.”**

Adm. Samuel Locklear  
U.S. Pacific Command

## PACIFIC

## Kerry to discuss N. Korea in S. Korea, China visits

Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — Secretary of State John Kerry will visit Seoul this week as part of a four-stop tour through Asia and the Middle East.

In South Korea, Kerry will meet with senior government officials to "discuss ways to expand our cooperation on regional and global issues, and continue our close coordination with the ROK on North Korea," a State Department statement said.

The top U.S. diplomat also will visit Beijing, Jakarta and Abu Dhabi during his Feb. 13-18 trip. Kerry will arrive in South Korea on Thursday afternoon and will depart Friday morning, according to the Seoul Foreign Correspondents' Club. The dates of other stops have not been announced.



Kerry

According to the State Department, Kerry also will discuss North Korea during his visit to China, as well as bilateral cooperation on climate change and clean energy. He also will emphasize that the U.S. welcomes China's rise and wants a "positive, cooperative, comprehensive relationship" with Beijing, the statement said.

China, which is embroiled in a number of island territorial disputes with other Asian countries, has come under international criticism for declaring an air defense identification zone over islands in the East China Sea late last year. The U.S., South Korea and Japan have refused to recognize the zone and have flown military aircraft through it without permission from Beijing.

Kerry will discuss issues including climate change, democracy and human rights with Indonesian officials, and will address a "range" of unspecified bilateral and regional issues with leaders of the United Arab Emirates.

## US general: Abe, Aquino views on China unhelpful

Bloomberg News

SINGAPORE — Comments by the leaders of Japan and the Philippines drawing parallels between China's growing assertiveness in the region and events in prewar Europe are "not helpful," said the commander of U.S. air forces in the Pacific.

"The rise of Germany and what occurred between the U.K. in particular and Germany and what happened in Europe, I don't draw that comparison at all to what's going on today" in the Asia-Pacific region, Gen. Herbert Carlisle, 58, said here in an interview Sunday. "Some of the things, in particular that have been done by Japan, they need to think hard about what is provocative to other nations."

The recent comments by Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Philippines President Benigno Aquino, two U.S. allies, have escalated tensions at a time when China is pushing its territorial claims in both the East and South China Seas and as President Xi Jinping expands the reach of his country's navy. Both sought to cast China's actions against the historical perspective of Germany's ascension in the first half of the 20th century.

The de-escalation of tensions has got to be a multilateral approach and it's not just one country that needs to de-escalate," said Carlisle, a former fighter squadron commander who is responsible for air force operations for more than half the globe, with oversight of 45,000 aircraft. "All of them do. The risk from miscalculation is high. It's greater than it should be."

Abe said in Switzerland late last month that Germany and Britain went to war despite strong economic ties, and warned that Japan and China must avoid a similar fate. In an interview with The New York Times published Feb. 5, Aquino called on nations to support the Philippines in defending its territory in the South China Sea, drawing a parallel with the West's failure to back Czechoslovakia against Adolf Hitler's demands for the Sudetenland in 1938.

China and Japan haven't held a summit since Abe took office in December 2012. Protests broke out in China in late 2012 after Japan bought some of the disputed East China Sea islands, known as Senkaku in Japanese and Diaoyu in Chinese, from a private owner. China in November set up an air defense zone in the area, demanding civil and military aircraft present flight plans before entering the space.

In December, Abe roiled ties by visiting the Yasukuni shrine, which honors Japan's war dead including 14 World War II military leaders convicted as Class-A criminals.

"If you look at some of the things that have been going on in the East China Sea, both militaries have been conducting themselves very professionally," Carlisle said. "But the potential for something, a mistake to occur or miscalculation or misunderstanding to occur, is out there. There is significantly more activity from both nations around the disputed territorial claims, and that to me is a risk."



PHOTOS BY LIAM KENNEDY/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

The USS George Washington is seen in port during an unusually heavy snowfall over the weekend in Japan.

## US bases in Japan reeling from weekend snowstorm

By SETH ROBSON  
Stars and Stripes

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — Yokota Air Base was still feeling the effects Monday from the worst blizzard to hit the Tokyo area in 45 years, with schools and offices closed while maintenance crews and residents cleared blocked paths and parking lots.

Air Force weather forecaster Staff Sgt. Zachary Kelly, of the 374th Operational Support Squadron, said 12.7 inches of snow fell on the base Saturday, breaking the daily record for February. The previous high — according to records going back to 1947 — was 12.3 inches, he said.

In a normal year, the base receives about 4.6 inches of snow for all of February, Kelly said.

Nationwide, the combination of heavy snow and gale-force winds played havoc with transportation and left at least 11 people dead and 1,200 injured, according to Japan's Kyodo news agency. Tokyo trains were still running with ice delays Monday, and long lines of commuters waited at some bus stops.

Major roads on Yokota were cleared by plows while residents burned plenty of calories shoveling snow around housing areas Sunday, but there was still work to do Monday. Base schools and many other facilities were closed, and most employees were told not to report for work. The Urgent Care Clinic remained open, but medical appointments were being



Sailors walk to the James D. Kelly Fleet Recreation Center on base in Yokosuka, Japan.

rescheduled.

Staff Sgt. Joshua Kozloski, of the 374th Civil Engineer Squadron, spent the morning shifting snow away from the Army and Air Force Exchange Service gas station on Yokota's East Side housing area.

"I've never seen anything like this here," Kozloski said. "People have their cars parked everywhere. I can't clear out any one area fast enough."

A town hall meeting to discuss "force management" with airmen's spouses that was scheduled for Monday evening has been rescheduled for 5:30 to 7 p.m. Tuesday at the Airman and Family

Readiness Center.

Kelly said the snow was melting slowly, but that some likely still would be on the ground by Friday, when more snow is forecast.

Off base, officials reported heavy traffic, including severe delays on the Yokohama-Yokosuka highway, especially near the Zushi interchange. Traffic on Route 16 — the road linking Yokota Air Base and Yokosuka Naval Base — was moving but slower than usual, officials said.

Stars and Stripes reporters Erik Slavin and James Kimber contributed to this report.  
robson.seth@stripes.com  
Twitter: @sethrobson1

## MILITARY

# Lawmakers target top VA leaders' bonuses

Stars and Stripes

Congress appears poised to tighten oversight of the Department of Veterans Affairs in light of the ever-present backlog of claims and recent, high-profile medical errors, the Wall Street Journal reported Sunday.

A bipartisan group of top members of the congressional committees that oversee the VA is frustrated with the agency in the wake of incidents ranging from a patient's death after an altercation with a nursing assistant in Louisiana to a deadly outbreak of Legionnaires' disease in Pennsylvania. Lawmakers say those episodes reflect a lack of accountability at the 1,700 VA hospitals, clinics and other facilities.

Congress now appears likely to impose restrictions. The House last week unanimously passed a bill that included a five-year ban on bonuses for senior VA executives, which the Congressional Budget Office estimated would save \$18 million. The Senate has not voted on the measure.

According to GovExec.com, Rep. Jeff Miller, R-Fla., said the bill's passage is an important step forward to hold VA more accountable, as the department has failed to conduct the review of its performance appraisal system that the committee recommended. The chairman long has argued that no one at the department deserves bonuses while the backlog of benefits claims remains high.

The Senior Executives Association, a tax-exempt, nonprofit corporation representing the interests of career federal executives, warned Miller not to eliminate the performance awards, as it would drive VA employees out of federal service, according to GovExec.com.

The SEA said in a letter to the committee that the bonuses are part of the pay structure for SES employees, and are awarded only after a "rigorous review of executives' achievements against both individual and organizational performance goals." The VA cares for 8.75 million patients, from nonagenarian World War II veterans to teenag-

ers with brain injuries from Afghanistan. Vietnam-era vets are now heavy VA users.

In some ways, the VA is politically inviolate, the Wall Street Journal wrote, noting that since fiscal 2000, its budget has tripled to \$148 billion, with no serious talk of cuts despite general concern about government deficits. That windfall and the influx of wounded vets also have drawn increased congressional scrutiny.

The dispute has taken a testy turn in recent weeks, with Miller and VA Secretary Eric Shinseki swapping comments about VA accountability practices, according to the Journal. In a Jan. 31 letter to Miller, the secretary defended the agency's bonus and dismissal practices, even going so far as to explain bonuses given to particular employees. "Results, or lack thereof, for which employees and executives are responsible and accountable, are factors when evaluating performance," wrote Shinseki, a former Army general.

Miller shot back Friday: "It's becoming more apparent by the day that there seems

to be just two types of people who think VA is properly holding its leaders accountable: VA executives who have received huge performance bonuses year after year despite failing in their jobs, and those who work in VA's central office."

VA officials say the agency has spent less on bonuses than allowed by law.

Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., who chairs the Senate VA oversight committee and is one of the agency's biggest allies on Capitol Hill, said most veterans are satisfied with VA care. "If you do an investigation of any given [civilian] hospital on any given day you're going to see negative things coming out," the Wall Street Journal reported Sanders as saying.

However, he expressed some concern about the VA's response when things go wrong. "When people are doing a bad job we don't want them staying in the job; when they do a good job we want to see them rewarded," Sanders said. "I'm not going to tell you that's always the case with the VA."

## Worth: Expertise gained in work in Russia used in Asian, African nations

FROM FRONT PAGE

With a budget that hovers above \$500 million per year, a little more than 1 percent of the Pentagon's baseline budget, Nunn-Lugar is money well spent, observers say.

"I think this program exceeded everyone's wildest expectations," said Joe Cirincione, president of the Ploughshares Fund, an American foundation that promotes the elimination and nonproliferation of nuclear weapons.

One of its latest efforts has yet to unfold. The refitted U.S. merchant vessel MV Cape Ray is steaming toward the Mediterranean Sea to receive 560 tons of Syria's most toxic chemical weapons. On board is a chemical-neutralizing hydrolysis system installed with funding from Nunn-Lugar.

"The expertise that's been developed over the years in the program with Russia has been applied in Libya and in Syria," said Daryl Kimball, executive director of the Arms Control Association, a U.S. nonproliferation advocacy group.

At its creation, Nunn-Lugar faced a daunting task. The Soviet Union boasted 11,000 warheads at its dissolution, with missile-delivery systems on land and under water, and with weapons sites in Russia, Ukraine, Belarus and Kazakhstan.

It was supposed to be a quick infusion of expertise and funding to secure the loose nukes in the chaos of the collapse of the Soviet Union," Cirincione said of the program. "Then two things happened. They realized how bad the security and facilities were deteriorating and how much help was needed — so the program extended — and then they realized they could develop ties with the scientists ... and help them transition into their skills elsewhere."

The program works with countries to identify projects and then provides funding, technical expertise and sometimes the materials to get the work done.

The earliest projects deactivated warheads and destroyed delivery systems under the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty. Growing concern in the U.S. over terrorism and the possibility that material from former Soviet states could be used in an attack encouraged more funding to

Nunn-Lugar for nonproliferation projects.

Congress expanded Nunn-Lugar projects in the 1990s to secure nuclear facilities and encouraged more work in securing chemical and biological centers. In the mid-2000s, the George W. Bush administration sought to use Nunn-Lugar funds for export and border control programs and for the detection of radiological "dirty" bombs.

In 2004, Nunn-Lugar worked for the first time outside the former USSR when it helped Albania destroy its chemical weapons stockpile. The project marked the first destruction of a country's full chemical weapons program, according to the DOD.

### Russia curtailed Nunn-Lugar program activities in the country in 2013.

Today, the program remains focused on securing potential material that could be turned into weapons of mass destruction. More than half of Nunn-Lugar's annual budget now goes to securing biological agents held in laboratories in Asian and African countries.

Few of those countries

have biological weapons programs, but all collect dangerous pathogens for study.

The shift in Nunn-Lugar's focus is underlined by its altered relationship with Russia, which curtailed Nunn-Lugar program activities in the country in 2013. Under a new agreement, Russia will continue the destruction and deactivation of munitions on its own while still allowing Nunn-Lugar to work on projects related to nuclear security in the country.

The program is likely to remain busy. The latest defense authorization bill passed by Congress called for Nunn-Lugar to reach out to more African and Middle Eastern countries to aid nonproliferation projects and to destroy chemical weapons programs. Jennifer Elzeu, a DOD spokeswoman, said the program will continue to evolve as new threats surface.

"Obviously, Nunn-Lugar will live on because [weapons of mass destruction] live on," she said.

beardsley.steven@stripes.com  
Twitter: @jbeardsley



LACORDRICK WILSON/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

The multipurpose amphibious assault ship USS Bataan departs Naval Station Norfolk for a scheduled deployment Saturday.

## Amphibious assault ship Bataan departs Norfolk

By HENDRICK SIMOES

Stars and Stripes

More than 4,000 sailors and Marines with the Bataan Amphibious Ready Group departed from Norfolk, Va., on Saturday on an eight-month scheduled deployment toward the Mediterranean Sea and Middle East.

The ready group includes the multipurpose amphibious assault ship USS Bataan, the amphibious transport dock USS Mesa Verde and the amphibious dock-landing ship USS Gunston Hall, with the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit embarked. Officials say the units provide the Navy with a versatile sea-based force that can conduct a variety of missions, including a quick-response crisis response.

The deployment is part of a regular rotation of forces to provide a crisis-response capability and to support maritime secu-

rity operations and a forward naval presence in the 6th Fleet and 5th Fleet area of responsibility, the Navy said in a news release.

Currently, the USS Boxer Amphibious Ready Group, with 1,800 sailors and 2,400 embarked Marines from the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit, has the watch in the Middle East. The San Diego-based group left its homeport in August and arrived in the Middle East in October, when it relieved the Kearsarge Amphibious Ready Group.

The Harry S. Truman Carrier Strike Group is also in the region. It recently completed five weeks of combined carrier operations with a French Navy Task Force that included the FS Charles de Gaulle.

simoes.hendrick@stripes.com  
Twitter: @Hendricksimo



## NATION

## 6 killed in multi-car crash on Southern Calif. freeway

The Associated Press

DIAMOND BAR, Calif. — A suspected drunk driver sped the wrong way on a Southern California freeway, causing a pre-dawn crash that killed six people, authorities said.

Olivia Culbreath, 21, of Fontana, Calif., was arrested Sunday on suspicion of driving under the influence and manslaughter after being pulled from a mangled Chevy Camaro on State Route 60, California Highway Patrol Officer Rodrigo Jimenez said.

Jimenez said the crash scene in this suburb east of Los Angeles was horrific. Three people were ejected from their cars and the Camaro was barely recognizable.

Authorities said Culbreath was traveling north in the southbound

lanes of State Route 57 before transitioning east in the west-bound lanes of State Route 60, where the Camaro collided head-on with a Ford Explorer. A Ford Freestyle then collided with the Explorer.

Four people were pronounced dead at the scene, and two people died after being taken to the hospital, Jimenez said.

Witnesses told dispatchers the Camaro was speeding up to 100 mph, Jimenez said.

Culbreath was in serious condition at Los Angeles County/USC Medical Center with a broken femur and a ruptured bladder, he said.

Jimenez told the San Gabriel Valley Tribune that evidence collected from the scene included alcoholic beverage.



WATCHARA PHOMICINDA, SAN GABRIEL VALLEY (CALIF.) TRIBUNE/AP

**Officials investigate the scene of a multiple-vehicle accident on the Pomona Freeway in Diamond Bar, Calif., on Sunday morning. Authorities say a wrong-way driver caused the pre-dawn crash that left six people dead.**

## Government analysis shows caffeine common in US kids

The Associated Press

CHICAGO — Nearly 3 out of 4 U.S. children and young adults consume at least some caffeine, mostly from soda, tea and coffee. The rate didn't budge much over a decade, although soda use declined and energy drinks became an increasingly common source, a government analysis finds.

Although even most preschoolers consume some caffeine-containing products, their average was the amount found in half a can of soda, and overall caffeine intake declined in children up to

age 11 during the decade.

The analysis is the first to examine recent trends in caffeine intake among children and young adults and comes amid a U.S. Food and Drug Administration investigation into the safety of caffeine-containing products, especially for children and teens.

The new analysis, by researchers at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, shows that at least through 2010, energy drinks were an uncommon source of caffeine for most U.S. youth.

The results were published online in the journal *Pediatrics*.



PAVEL GOLOVKIN/AP

Police on horseback patrol a boardwalk outside Olympic Park in Sochi, Russia, on Monday.

## US lawmakers say Russia not sharing Olympic threats

By BRIAN BENNETT  
Tribune Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — U.S. intelligence officials are frustrated that the Russian government is withholding information about threats to Olympic venues coming from inside Russia, several lawmakers said on talk shows Sunday.

"We aren't getting the kind of cooperation that we'd like from the Russians in terms of their internal threats," Rep. Adam Schiff, D-Calif., a member of the House Intelligence Committee, said on "Fox News Sunday."

"It means that we're less effective in protecting our people, and that's a frustration," Schiff said.

More than 70,000 Russian security officers have been deployed to protect the Olympic venues in Sochi. Russian President Vladimir Putin describes the layers of security around Sochi as the "ring of steel."

The United States has set up a command center in Sochi with about 150 security personnel from the FBI, the State Department and the Department of Homeland Security.

The American ambassador to Russia, Michael McFaul, said the U.S. is "quite satisfied" with the co-

operation coming from Russian security officials.

"We always want to know more, and if you work in the intelligence business you always want more information from any interlocutor, from any partner country," McFaul said.

"That said, we do not have an interest in embarrassing the Russians. We have exactly the same in-

terests with them when it comes to the security of everyone here in Sochi," he said, speaking on NBC's "Meet the Press."

Last week, the U.S. Transportation Security Administration banned passengers flying from the U.S. to Russia from bringing liquids in their carry-on baggage. The alert was based on intelligence that terrorists might try to smuggle explosives onto airplanes inside toothpaste tubes.

Some of that information came from Russian officials, Rep. Peter King, R-N.Y., said Sunday on CBS's "Face the Nation."

But King, who sits on both the House Intelligence and Homeland Security committees, said the Russians aren't cooperating to

the same extent as the Chinese, British and Greeks did when they were the host countries of previous Olympic Games.

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## NATION

## Snow days adding up this winter

The Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — The first snow day of this brutal winter left teacher Christopher Crabtree almost as tickled as it did his three children, but delight is giving way to dread as school cancellations pile up — a whopping 15 days off so far in his southern Ohio district, with more snow in the forecast.

Now, even his 12-year-old daughter and 9-year-old twins are missing friends and tired of being stuck at home, he said.

"We really need to get to back to school and some normalcy," said Crabtree, who teaches American studies at Waverly High School, which lost much of January's class time to cancellations and two-hour delays.

He wonders how he'll get students ready for state standardized tests next month.

"I'm feeling the heat because there are things we have to cover," he said.

Schools in at least 10 states and the District of Columbia have run out of wiggle room in their academic calendars, forcing them



MATT ROUGE/AP

**A worker clears a tree after a winter storm in Downingtown, Pa. Schools have canceled classes due to winter weather in 10 states, playing havoc with academic calendars.**

to cut short planned breaks, hold class on holidays, add extra days to the end of the year or otherwise compensate for the lost time.

Students will make up at least three days in Philadelphia and New Haven, Conn., and two in Washington. Delaware schools have missed a week's worth of class, and more than half of Maryland's school districts reached or exceeded their allotted snow days. Boston is extending its school year by nearly a week.

## As NYC abandons carriages, what will become of horses?

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Time may be running out for the iconic horse carriages that carry tourists around New York City's Central Park.

Mayor Bill de Blasio has already declared his intention to shut down the industry, saying it is inhumane to keep horses in modern-day Manhattan. While that debate could be over, at least one nagging question remains: What will become of the horses?

Both sides in New York City's carriage horse battle insist they will find a sanctuary for the approximately 200 horses licensed to pull carriages in New York City. But drivers warn that shutting down the city stables might have the unintended effect of eliminating a rare outlet for surplus horses pouring out of the farming and racing industries — sending them faster to the slaughterhouse.

"If they did not come to New York City, most of these horses would be dead," said Ian McK-

ever, an Irishman who owns nine Central Park horses and has been driving a carriage in the city since 1987.

That's an argument that infuriates critics of the industry, who say the nation's unwanted horse dilemma is no excuse to preserve an inhumane business.

"Anyone who cares about a horse wouldn't think that taking it and sticking it in Midtown traffic is the right answer to that problem," said Alie Feldman, executive director of a leading anti-carriage lobbying group, New Yorkers for Clean, Livable and Safe Streets.

Last year, roughly 140,000 U.S. horses were shipped off to slaughterhouses in Canada and Mexico when they became unaffordable, or unprofitable, for their owners.

The root of the problem is unregulated breeding, said Wayne Paele, president of the Humane Society of the United States.

Carriage owners insist their horses are as healthy and happy as any in a well-run rural barn.

## Data: Pilots often head to wrong airport for landing

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Do you know the way to San Jose? Quite a few airline pilots in the United States apparently don't.

On at least 150 flights, including one involving a Southwest Airlines jet last month in Missouri and a jumbo cargo plane last fall in Kansas, U.S. commercial air carriers have either landed at the wrong airport or started to land and realized their mistake in time, according to a search by The Associated Press of government safety databases and media reports since the early 1990s.

A particular trouble spot is San Jose, Calif. The list of landing mistakes includes six reports of pilots preparing to land at Moffett Field, a joint civilian-military airport, when they meant to go to Mineta San Jose International Airport, about 10 miles to the southeast. The airports are south of San Francisco in California's Silicon Valley.

"This event occurs several times every winter in bad weather

when we work on Runway 12," a San Jose airport tower controller said in a November 2012 report describing how an airliner headed for Moffett after being cleared to land at San Jose.

A controller at a different facility who noticed the impending landing on radar warned his colleagues with a telephone hotline that piped his voice directly into the San Jose tower's loudspeakers. The plane was waved off in time.

In nearly all the incidents, the pilots were cleared by controllers to guide the plane based on what they could see rather than relying on automation.

Many incidents occur at night, with pilots reporting they were attracted by the runway lights of the first airport they saw during descent. Some pilots said they disregarded navigation equipment that showed their planes slightly off course because the information didn't match what they were seeing out their windows — a runway straight ahead.

"You've got these runway lights, and you are looking at them, and they're saying: 'Come to me, come to me. I will let you land.' They're like the sirens of the ocean," said Michael Barr, a former Air Force pilot who teaches aviation safety at the University of Southern California.

Using NASA's Aviation Safety Reporting System, along with news accounts and reports sent to other federal agencies, the AP tallied 35 landings and 115 approaches or aborted landing attempts at wrong airports by commercial passenger and cargo planes over more than two decades. The tally doesn't include every event. Many are not disclosed to the media, and reports to the NASA database are voluntary.

FAA officials turned down a request by The Associated Press for access to those records, saying some may include information on possible violations of safety regulations by pilots and might be used in an enforcement action.

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Dr. Jin Robertson at Harvard graduation with her daughter and son

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## WORLD

# N. Korea rescinds invitation to US

By HUYUNG-JIN KIM  
The Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korea has canceled for a second time its invitation for a senior U.S. envoy to visit the country to discuss a long-detained American's possible release, the State Department said Monday.

The cancellation comes only days after detained American missionary Kenneth Bae told a pro-Pyongyang newspaper that he expected to meet this month with the envoy. It signals an apparent

protest of upcoming annual military drills between Washington and Seoul and an alleged mobilization of U.S. nuclear-capable B-52 bombers during training near the Korean Peninsula. North Korea calls the planned drills a rehearsal for invasion, a claim the allies deny.

The State Department also said in a statement that civil rights leader the Rev. Jesse Jackson has offered to travel to North Korea at the request of Bae's family. The State Department did not elaborate and referred questions to

Jackson, whose spokesman didn't immediately respond to a request for comment.

Analysts say North Korea has previously used detained Americans as leverage in its standoff with the U.S. over its nuclear and missile programs; North Korea denies that.

Bae has been held in North Korea for 15 months. The North accused him of smuggling in inflammatory literature and trying to establish a base for anti-government activities at a border city hotel.

Bae was quoted last week in an interview with the Japan-based Chosun Sinbo newspaper as saying that a Swedish diplomat told him the U.S. envoy on North Korean human rights issues, Bob King, would visit him as early as Monday and no later than the end of the month.

Bae said he also heard from the diplomat that the U.S. government had told North Korea that it intends to send Jackson, but the North instead allowed King to come to the country, the report said, without elaborating.

## New Zealand rebukes Japan in whaling row

WELLINGTON, New Zealand — New Zealand sharply criticized Japan on Monday for allowing a whaling ship to enter New Zealand's maritime economic zone.

The government said Japan ignored requests that the Shonan Maru 2 steer clear of New Zealand's 200-nautical mile exclusive economic zone as the whaler pursued an anti-whaling vessel operated by protest group Sea Shepherd.

Japan defended the incident, saying any ship is allowed under international rules to enter an exclusive economic zone, and it had been necessary to protect Japanese whalers from the activists.

## US Embassy warns of possible Guyana threat

GEORGETOWN, Guyana — The U.S. Embassy in Guyana warned Sunday that it had received "unconfirmed threat information" about a regional airline's flights from the South American country to the United States on Monday and urged Americans to avoid using the carrier.

The terse message about flights of Caribbean Airlines was unusual for being so specific about a potential threat, although it gave no details on the threat. The warning was posted Sunday on the embassy's website.

It advised all U.S. citizens in Guyana to make alternate travel arrangements through Wednesday if they were planning on traveling home on flights with Caribbean Airlines.

## Zoo staff threatened after giraffe killing

STOCKHOLM — Officials at the Copenhagen Zoo in Denmark say they received death threats after the zoo killed a 2-year-old giraffe and fed its remains to lions.

Zoo spokesman Tobias Stenbaek Bro said Monday that he and the zoo's scientific director, Bengt Holst, received several threats over the telephone and in emails. They quoted one email as saying, "The children of the staff of Copenhagen Zoo should all be killed or should get cancer."

The giraffe, Marius, was killed Sunday using a bolt pistol, then skinned and fed to lions in front of visitors, including children.

## Rescued fisherman finally on way home

MAJURO, Marshall Islands — A Salvadoran man who says he drifted in an open boat across the Pacific for more than a year has been rescued by the Marshall Islands for taking care of him and said he was "doing very well" before starting his journey home Monday.

Marshall Islands President Christopher Loeak bid Jose Salvarenga farewell at the airport.

Salvarenga told officials during his two-week recuperation at a hospital and a hotel in the capital, Majuro, that he left Mexico in late 2012 with another fisherman, who later died in a storm that threw them off course. He said he survived on fish, birds and turtles.

From The Associated Press

## Tiger evades hunters, kills 10th person in India

By BISWAJEET BANERJEE  
The Associated Press

LUCKNOW, India — A tiger prowling near villages in northern India killed its 10th person in six weeks, a day after eluding a trap set by hunters with a live calf as bait.

The female tiger is believed to have strayed from Jim Corbett National Park, India's oldest national park, which was established in 1936 to provide endangered Bengal tigers with safe territory.

The big cat's latest victim was a 50-year-old man who was collecting firewood Sunday night in the forest outside Kalgarh village in Uttarakhnad state, according to Saket Badola, deputy director of the national park.

The animal ate parts of the man's leg and abdomen before being scared away by villagers waving shovels and metal rods.

Hunters had almost nabbed the tiger a day earlier with a bovine calf.

"On Saturday night, the tigress almost fell in trap and was close to the calf," Badola said. "But she did not attack the bait and left silently."

Reports that a killer tiger was on the loose began circulating Dec. 29, when a 65-year-old man was mauled in Sambhal district of Uttar Pradesh state, across the border from Uttarakhnad. Since then, thousands of terrified villagers have been told to watch out for the animal and to avoid the forests.

The tiger has been on the prowl around an area spanning some 80 miles.

"The animal has started attacking humans because it is not getting its natural prey," said Rupak De, chief wildlife warden of Uttar Pradesh. "The tigress must be tired because it is not getting adequate rest."

He said the hunters hired to kill the animal were having trouble tracking it in dense forests. The team also was understaffed; only three of the six hunters hired for the job showed up for work, De said.



SANG TAN/AP

A worker walks across flooded railway tracks Monday in Datchet, England, where the River Thames has overflowed its banks.

## Thames breaches banks near London

The Associated Press

LONDON — The River Thames has burst its banks after reaching its highest level in years, flooding riverside towns upstream of London.

Residents and British troops had piled up sandbags to protect properties from the latest bout of flooding, but the river overwhelmed their defenses Monday, leaving areas including the center of the village of Datchet underwater.

The Environment Agency has

issued 14 severe flood warnings — meaning there's a danger to life — along the Thames east of Windsor, about 20 miles from London.

Its chief executive, Paul Leinster, said "extreme weather will continue to threaten communities this week" with more Thames flooding expected Tuesday.

England has had its wettest January since 1766. Its southwest coast has been battered repeatedly by storms and a large area of the low-lying Somerset Levels

in the southwest has been under water for more than a month.

The disaster has sparked a political storm, with the Prime Minister David Cameron's Conservative-led government facing criticism from many residents for allegedly failing to dredge rivers and to take other flood-prevention measures.

Both Cameron and Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg visited flood-hit areas Monday as the government struggled to take charge of the flooding crisis.



## WORLD

# 21 killed by Iraq militants' bomb mistake

By SAMEER N. YACUB  
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Militants accidentally set off their own car bomb Monday at a training camp in the countryside north of Baghdad, leaving 21 dead and resulting in two dozen arrests, Iraqi officials said.

In the city of Mosul to the north, meanwhile, the speaker of parliament — one of the most prominent Sunni officials in Iraq — escaped unhurt from a roadside bomb attack on his motorcycle.

Car bombs are one of the deadliest weapons used by the al-Qaida breakout group in Iraq that dominates the Sunni insurgency in Iraq, with coordinated waves of explosions regularly leaving scores dead in Baghdad and elsewhere across the country.

The bombs are sometimes assembled in farm compounds where militants can gather without being spotted, or in car workshops in industrial areas. Police say the camp outside Samarra, a Sunni city 60 miles north of Baghdad, was in an orchard in the village of al-Jalam.

A police officer said the militants were attending a lesson on making car bombs and explosive belts when a glitch set off one of the devices.

The officer said security forces rushed to the area after hearing the sound of the explosion. They arrested 12 wounded suspected militants plus another 10 trying to flee the area.

Security forces found seven car bombs, several explosive belts and roadside bombs after searching two houses and a garage in the orchard, he said.

Meanwhile, authorities in the northern city of Mosul said that parliamentary speaker Osama al-Nujaifi escaped an assassination attempt that left one bodyguard wounded.

Police officials said a roadside bomb went off next to the motorcycle. Al-Nujaifi was not hurt.

Medical officials confirmed the casualties. All officials spoke anonymously because they were not authorized to speak to media.

By LOVEDAY MORRIS  
The Washington Post

BAGHDAD — Scores of bodies have been dumped in Iraq's canals and palm groves in recent months, reminding terrified residents of the worst days of the country's sectarian conflict and fueling fears that the stage is being set for another civil war.

In the latest sign of the escalating attacks, the heads of three Sunnis were found Sunday in a market in northern Salaheddin province, while six Shiites were shot dead in the province after being questioned about their religious affiliation, officials said.

The carnage has raised concern that the Shiite militias that stalked members of the minority Sunni population in the dark days of 2006 and 2007 could be remobilizing, in response to attacks by Sunni extremists.

Members of Asaib Ahl al-Haq, an Iranian-backed Shiite group responsible for thousands of attacks on U.S. forces during the Iraq War, admit they have ramped up targeted killings in response to a cascade of bomb attacks on their neighborhoods.

"We've had to be much more active," said an Asaib Ahl al-Haq commander who goes by the nom de guerre Abu Sajad. "Those who are trying to incite sectarianism, we have to deal with them," he said, drawing his hand over his throat like a knife.

More than 1,000 people were killed in January in Iraq, according to Agence France-Presse. That was the highest death toll since April 2008.

Iraq's Shiite-led government is struggling to maintain security as the al-Qaida splinter group Islamic State of Iraq and Syria, or ISIS, regularly bombs Shiite neighborhoods in Baghdad. The Sunni-dominated group is also battling the army for control of cities in the western province of Anbar. Analysts say that the absence of a major militant group



Anti-government gunmen display their weapons as they pose for a group picture before going on a patrol in Fallujah, Iraq, on Saturday. Al-Qaida-led militants are battling for control of mainly Sunni areas to the west of Baghdad in a key test of the Shiite-led government's ability to maintain security in the country.

on the Shiite side had prevented the violence from escalating into all-out war — until now.

"The big dynamic we are dancing around is this move back into civil war, triggered by the Islamic State," said Toby Dodge, a professor at the London School of Economics. "For a while there wasn't the second hand to do the clapping, and now there is, and that's Asaib Ahl al-Haq."

Formed in 2006, Asaib Ahl al-Haq was responsible for frequent bombings targeting U.S. forces during the Iraq war. Now members say its priority is ISIS.

"You have this computer system, and this whole system was infected with a virus," said Abu Sajad, referring to ISIS's prevalence in Iraq. "You have to impart something to deal with that."

That's what we are for."

H said his militia is not trying to reignite Iraq's civil war.

Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, a Shiite who is accused by Sunnis of oppressing them, has insisted that he is tough on all militias.

"There is no place for Asaib Ahl al-Haq militants within the security forces or armed forces," government spokesman Ali al-Moussawi said. Any accounts that militias are connected to the security forces are "fabrications," he said.

However, Michael Knights, an analyst with the Washington Institute, said it was obvious that Shiite militias played a role in the security forces.

"They can bring a very serious approach to security, but

within the cover of the security forces, which is more worrying than militias that operate openly and illegally," he said.

Asaib Ahl al-Haq has been attempting to recast itself as a mainstream political player since the withdrawal of U.S. forces in 2011. But it has not abandoned its weapons. Analysts estimate that the number of armed militants in the group ranges from 1,000 to 5,000.

"For sure, one spark, and the militias will rise again," said Ali Khadum al-Assad, 27, a real estate worker from Sadr City, an impoverished Shiite neighborhood in Baghdad. "Citizens are prepared. If they attack a holy mosque or shrine, or if there are more car bombs, of course we are going to use our weapons."

## Syria talks bog down in bitterness

The Associated Press

GENEVA — A second round of peace talks between the Syrian government and the opposition bogged down quickly Monday in recriminations about who was responsible for escalating violence that has killed hundreds in the past few days and disrupted food aid for trapped civilians.

U.N.-Arab League envoy Lakhdar Brahimi held separate closed-door meetings in Geneva with the Syrian government and opposition delegations to try to set an agenda for the coming week.

The first face-to-face meetings adjourned 10 days ago having achieved little beyond getting the warring sides into the same room. This time, there are no im-

mediate plans to even sit at the same table.

"The negotiations cannot continue while the regime is stepping up its violence against the Syrian people," opposition spokesman Louay Safi told reporters following a 90-minute meeting with Brahimi. "It is not acceptable that the regime will send its own delegation to talk peace while it is killing our people in Syria."

The opposition insists the talks' aim is to agree on a transitional governing body that would replace President Bashar Assad. The government delegation says that cannot happen before there is a halt to violence by "terrorists," a term authorities use to refer to the rebels fighting to top-

ple Assad.

Syrian Deputy Foreign Minister Faisal Mekdad said the issue of Assad stepping down was not on the agenda.

The increased violence on the ground provided ammunition for both sides.

Extremist Islamic rebels overran Maan, a village in central Syria populated by Assad's Alawite minority, killing at least 40 people Sunday, activists said.

The government delegation capitalized on the Maan raid to bolster its claim that the three-year uprising against Assad is dominated by Islamic extremists.

Asked about the Maan killings earlier, Safi said the regime wants to shift the blame on others.



Salvatore Di Nolfi, Keystone/AP

Syrian Deputy Foreign Minister Faisal Mekdad said in Geneva, Switzerland, on Monday that the issue of Bashar Assad stepping down as Syria's leader is not on the agenda for peace talks.

## STARS AND STRIPES.

Max D. Lederer Jr., Publisher  
 Richard Braun, General Manager, Europe  
 John Panasiwicz, General Manager, Pacific  
 Lt. Col. Jeff Myer, Europe commander  
 Lt. Col. Brian Porter, Pacific commander

## EDITORIAL

Terry Leonard, Editorial Director  
 leonard.terry@stripes.com

Sam Amrhein, Deputy Managing Editor  
 amrhein.sam@stripes.com

Tina Croley, Enterprise Editor  
 croley.tina@stripes.com

## BUREAU STAFF

## Europe/Bureau

Teddie Weyr, News Editor Europe/Mideast  
 teddie.ted@stripes.com;  
 +49(0)631.3615.9310, cell  
 +49(0)173.315.1881; DSN (314)583.9310

## Pacific

Paul Alexander, News Editor Pacific  
 alexander.paul@stripes.com  
 +81-3 6385.5377; cell (080)5883.1673  
 DSN (315)225.5377

## Washington

Patrick Dickson, Washington Bureau Chief  
 dickson.patrick@stripes.com  
 (+1)703)693.6957; DSN (312)223.6957  
 Brian Bowers, Assistant Managing Editor, News  
 bowers.brian@stripes.com  
 Joe Gromelski, Assistant Managing Editor, Web  
 gromelski.joe@stripes.com  
 Sean Moores, Assistant Managing Editor, Sports, Features and Graphics  
 moores.sean@stripes.com

## CONTACT US

## Washington

tel. (+1)202.761.0900; DSN (312)763.0900;  
 fax: (+1)202.761.0890  
 529 14th Street NW, Suite 350, Washington, DC  
 20045-1301

## Reader letters

letters@stripes.com

## Additional contacts

stripes.com/contacts

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Ernie Gates

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR/OPINION

## GIs' alcohol woes predated ad

Regarding Phillip Carter's Feb. 6 column ("Ad only adds to military's alcohol problem"): Blaming a Budweiser Super Bowl ad or any other alcohol company for the "military's alcohol problem" is not holding servicemembers responsible for their decisions or accountable for their actions. As members of the U.S. military, which may be arguably one of the most appreciated public organizations in the United States, servicemembers must first take responsibility for the decisions they make and be held accountable for their actions involving the use of alcohol.

Also, friends and co-workers could look after the welfare of their fellow servicemembers who already have an alcohol problem or those who may seem like they

## Tell us what you think

Stars and Stripes welcomes your comments on editorials and columns that are published in the newspaper, and values letters on topics of importance in the lives of our readers. All letters must be signed, and must include the writer's address or base and telephone number. Please limit all letters to 300 words. We reserve the right to edit letters for length, taste and clarity. To write us, please refer to the Reader letters information on this page.

are reaching that point where they had too much alcohol at an event. I use the word "could" because friends and co-workers are not directly responsible for the decisions or actions of other individuals.

Finally, although leadership is also not

directly responsible for individuals who make the wrong decisions regarding alcohol, leadership has an inherent role in coordinating with the respective organizations that may educate servicemembers about the effects of alcohol abuse.

In addition to individuals taking responsibility for their decisions and being held accountable for their actions, leadership must create an environment where alcohol abuse is not tolerated. Squeezing in a briefing about alcohol abuse during annual training is not only inadequate, it sends a message that alcohol abuse is not important enough and instead just a matter of "checking the block." If someone must be blamed, start with the individual and his or her environment.

Capt. Shonnette Rana  
 Vicenza, Italy

## Practice what you preach, Mr. President

By KATHLEEN PARKER

WASHINGTON  
 President Barack Obama gave a lovely speech at the recent National Prayer Breakfast — and one is reluctant to criticize. But pry my jaw from the floorboards. Without a hint of irony, the president lamented eroding protections of religious liberty around the world.

Just not, apparently, in America. Nary a mention of the legal challenges to religious liberty now in play between this administration and the Catholic Church and other religious groups, as well as private businesses that contest the contraceptive mandate in Obamacare.

Missing was any mention of Hobby Lobby or the Little Sisters of the Poor — whose cases have recently reached the U.S. Supreme Court and that reveal the Obama administration's willingness to challenge rather than protect religious liberty in this country.

It is true that our religious liberty issues are tamer than those mentioned by Obama. We don't slaughter people for their religious beliefs. We don't use blasphemy laws to repress people. But we are in the midst of a muddle about where religion and state draw their red lines, and it isn't going so well for the religious-liberty lobby. As it turns out, many in the audience were reaching for their own jaws when Obama got to the liberty section of his speech, according to several people who attended the breakfast. Michael Cromartie, vice president of the Ethics and Public Policy Center, summed up the general reaction of many with whom he spoke: "Stunned."

"Several people said afterward how encouraged they would have been by President Obama's remarks if only his acts reflected what he said," Cromartie told me.

One table was applauding only out of politeness, according to Jerry Pate, who was sitting with Steve Patten — president of the Hobby Lobby stores that have challenged Obamacare's contraceptive mandate. Pate described the experience as "surrealistic."

The government's position is that because Hobby Lobby is a for-profit business, the owners' religious beliefs can't be imposed on their employees. Hobby Lobby insists it shouldn't have to sacrifice its Christian beliefs regarding human life.

Pattenge, assistant provost at Indiana Wesleyan University and research consultant to the Green family, also noted the disconnect between the president's message and policies at home that "are creating a queue at the Supreme Court."

Perhaps Obama's advisers counted on the good will of the audience. Or they reckoned that juxtaposed against atrocities committed elsewhere, our debates about birth control might be viewed as not much



CHARLES DHARAPAN/AP

President Barack Obama speaks at the 62nd National Prayer Breakfast in Washington on Thursday. The president told the nondenominational gathering of political leaders that freedom of religion across the world is a central tenet of U.S. diplomacy.

ado.

It is understandable that many Americans might not see these legal challenges as especially pressing, especially if they'd just like insurance coverage for contraception — a position with which I personally have no disagreement. But these cases are more than a debate about birth control. They have far-reaching implications and, as Obama pointed out, there is a strong correlation between religious freedom and a nation's stability.

"History shows that nations that uphold the rights of their people — including the freedom of religion — are ultimately more just and more peaceful and more successful."

Since this is so, one wonders why the Obama administration is so dedicated to forcing people to act against their own conscience. By requiring through the contraceptive mandate that some religious-affiliated groups provide health plans covering what they consider abortifacient contraceptives, isn't the Obama adminis-

tration effectively imposing its own religious rules? *Thou shalt not protect unborn life.*

The answer to this question is above my paygrade, as Obama memorably answered when asked by Pastor Rick Warren when life begins. The more germane question to cases such as Hobby Lobby and the Little Sisters is whether the government can accomplish its goal of making free contraception available without burdening religious objectors. Can't women in Colorado get contraception without forcing the Little Sisters, a group of nuns who care for the elderly, to violate their core beliefs? Their charitable work could not long survive under penalties the government would impose on them for noncompliance.

For now, the Little Sisters have been granted a reprieve, thanks to Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor. Arguments in the Hobby Lobby case are scheduled for March, with a decision expected in June. Meanwhile, another case settled in 2012 reveals much about this administration's willingness to challenge religious freedom. In Hosanna-Tabor Evangelical Lutheran Church and School v. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, the question boiled down to whether the government can decide whom a church hires as minister. Since when?

Not yet. In a rare move, all nine justices ruled against the government, stating that the federal government does not, alas, get to direct who preaches the gospel. But it wanted to.

Kathleen Parker is a member of Washington Post Writers Group.

Perhaps Obama's advisers reckoned that juxtaposed against atrocities committed elsewhere, our debates about birth control might be viewed as not much ado.

## OPINION

# Poppy war grows out of Afghanistan mess

By MARKOS KOUNALAKIS

In the movie "Charlie Wilson's War," Philip Seymour Hoffman played a CIA officer determined to help Afghans win back their country from occupying Soviets in the 1980s. The helicopter-killing missiles that Hoffman's character promoted for mujahideen fighters — and procured by Charlie Wilson's congressional support — were decisive in turning the tide against the Soviet Red Army.

But, there is a cruel twist of ironic fate in the drug-addicted Hoffman's recent heroin overdose death. Most of the world's heroin — about 80 percent — is currently produced in the country where the United States has fought its longest war: Afghanistan.

America's war in Afghanistan is finally winding down, but the long-term drug war with that country is just warming up. And many of the victims of that 21st-century global opiate war will be the hundreds of thousands of Americans at every level of society, rich and poor, famous or ignored.

Irony seems to be at the heart of this issue.

Most of the heroin being produced in the world these days originates in the opium poppy fields of Afghanistan. At the time of the Sept. 11 attacks, the Taliban had nearly eradicated Afghanistan's poppy cultivation. The Taliban are radical extremists when it comes to Islamic purity and anti-modernity, but they were also radically anti-narcotics. Villainous Taliban leader and former Emir of Afghanistan Mullah Mohammed Omar worked with the United Nations to ban poppy farming. Enforcement of the ban under the Taliban included severe public punishment.

When the Afghans, many of them former mujahideen, overthrew the Taliban with the help of American forces, the regulating power for opium cultivation was gone. Suddenly, the high profit, export-oriented heroin market was back in business. Following the Taliban's overthrow, new players entered the highly profitable drug game — with many of them allegedly related to America's ally, Afghan President

Hamid Karzai.

Karzai is an erratic figure. As the American-led International Security and Assistance Force enters the endgame phase of the Afghan War, Karzai has seemingly turned on America — hyping accusations of civilian attacks by the Obama administration and holding hostage a negotiated solution for U.S. troop withdrawal. He refuses to sign the already concluded, loya jirga-elder-leadership-approved, U.S.-Afghan bilateral security agreement, hoping to ride out the April presidential elections.

If the threat to American troops on the ground in Afghanistan were not enough, Karzai is also at least partly responsible for the steady increase in the opium trade in his country.

Since irony is an Afghan theme, the Taliban that once used a medieval approach to eradicate opium poppy fields now rely on poppy cultivation to help fund their armed opposition to the Karzai regime.

A future Karzai-led Afghanistan, with or without an American security presence (and with or without a negotiated agreement with the Taliban) will still be a heroin-exporting Afghanistan. If recent trends are any indication, the heroin-exporting machine will continue to grow. In 2013, Afghan opium production grew 36 percent from the previous year, according to testimony at a U.S. Senate hearing. According to John Sopko, the special inspector general for Afghan reconstruction, the value of Afghan heroin produced in 2013 was about \$3 billion — and that is after \$2 billion has been spent on a Pentagon counter-narcotics effort.

I covered the end of Charlie Wilson's war when I was a Moscow correspondent in the 1990s, flying to Kabul on a vulnerable Soviet military transport. I witnessed the devastating effects and the lingering consequences of heroin addiction, both inside and outside of Afghanistan — from the apartments of Russian soldiers to the salons of Roman elites in Italy, and on the hard American streets. The scourge of heroin knows no social or physical boundaries.

Worldwide, there are an estimated 9.2 million heroin users, according to the



**Above:** A drug addict prepares a needle to inject himself with heroin in the Skid Row area of Los Angeles last year. **Left:** Mimi O'Donnell, estranged partner of actor Philip Seymour Hoffman, comforts two of their children, daughter Willa and son Cooper, as his casket arrives at the Church of St. Ignatius Loyola on Friday in New York. Hoffman, 46, was found dead Feb. 2 of an apparent heroin overdose.

**Top:** AP; **Left:** MARK LEMMON/AP



Foundation for a Drug-Free World. As the U.S. counterterrorism, counterinsurgency and counter narcotics efforts in Afghanistan wind down, another, more pernicious and devastating war with more casualties than the recent hot wars is clearly on the horizon.

Afghanistan may be headed to the back

burner of our consciousness once American troops are home, but that country will continue to enter our social bloodstream. Afghanistan harbored al-Qaida and Osama bin Laden prior to 2001. They are again cultivating terrorism — only this instance, the terror is in a syringe.

Markos Kounalakis is a research fellow at Central European University. He is currently a visiting fellow at the Hoover Institution. This column first appeared in The Sacramento (Calif.) Bee.

# Down to brass tacks: Boorish behavior kills careers

By AMANDA BENNETT

Not long ago, I was part of a small group vetting candidates for a once-in-a-lifetime kind of job.

Our research turned up example after example of one contender's dismissiveness toward his female subordinates. Talented women had fled his command. His top management team was exclusively male.

The candidate entered the field a favorite yet never made the cut.

Both men and women talk a lot — too much — these days about why women can't have it all.

We don't talk enough about why some men think they can.

The Washington Post reported last month on military commanders' misconduct after reviewing recent inspector general investigations it received in response to Freedom of Information Act requests to the Army, Air Force, Navy and Marines. The documents, and other reporting, revealed more than garden-variety affairs. There was Brig. Gen. Martin Roberts, who pledged zero tolerance for sexual harassment while he himself was being investigated for allegations of assaulting a girlfriend. There was Brig. Gen. Martin Schweitzer, an 82nd Airborne Division commander

who, after meeting with a female member of Congress, emailed a colleague that the lawmaker was not only knowledgeable but also so "smoking hot" that he masturbated three times after the meeting.

On one level, it's not surprising that these guys thought they could have it all. For the most part, they could. They could be powerful, respected, well-paid, influential — and never had to outgrow their frat-boy behavior. There was never any real blowback.

Even as public displays of bias or crudeness became unacceptable, these men figured out how to show two faces. Many learned that it paid to mouth platitudes about "zero tolerance" and "equal opportunity" but that there was no real incentive to walk the walk. After all, they could check off the human resources training, give the "respect for all" speech and still tell crude jokes — or worse — on the golf course.

But little by little, we are seeing that, as we might tell 5-year-olds, choices have consequences.

In recent years, "bad boy" antics have cost governors (Eliot Spitzer), other politicians (Anthony Weiner) and the head of a major U.S. government agency (David Petraeus) their jobs. A star hangs in the balance for Schweitzer, who sent what, ac-

cording to the investigative report, even he later agreed were "childish" and "truly stupid" emails. The question is, how do we, as a society, help speed the realization that there are genuine, and significant, political, social, moral and national security consequences to crudeness in one's dealings with women?

If you are guarding the president on a foreign trip and consorting with prostitutes in your off-hours, those actions pose a risk — not just to you and not just of bringing home an STD. If you are in charge of a lot of spies, relying on a gmail account for your clandestine affair could put an important government agency in harm's way.

Joking with peers about masturbating at the thought of a congresswoman who helps look after funding for military assets not only helps create the harmful it's-just-us guys cover for bad behavior that you have been charged with stamping out but also subtly undermines the effectiveness of someone whose effectiveness you, and the rest of the military, count on.

Yet knowing the potential consequences clearly hasn't been enough to persuade everyone to keep in line. And even the jocular commander, when caught, passed off his behavior the way clowns always do: Hey, it was a joke! That's what people could do

when the consequences were remote and theoretical.

Now the consequences are becoming personal. The realization that this type of nonsense might actually harm one's career will help speed the shift in behavior in ways that mere concerns about fairness, or even national security, did not.

To me, the sad thing about the job-vetting experience is that the candidate we were so interested in never knew what could have been his — or why it wasn't. He never knew that many women were willing to provide examples of his behavior — and many men, too. The backslapping code didn't cover for him the way it might have in the past. The closed doors aren't quite so closed anymore.

Those trying to guess the candidate should stand down — it's not who you're thinking — but I wouldn't totally discourage the guessing game if it causes some people to wonder: Could this have been me? Unfortunately, for all the changes brewing, too many people out there still haven't been convinced that they cannot have it all, and probably shouldn't.

Amanda Bennett is a journalist and a co-founder of the Bloomberg Women's Project. This column first appeared in The Washington Post.



## WORLD



HATEM MOUSSA/AP

Director Majed Jundiyeih holds a mobile phone to compare the image of Gilad Shalit with the likeness of actor Mahmoud Karira, who will play Shalit in "Losing Shalit." The film is the first of three planned about the 2006 capture of Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit.

# Sticking to the script

## 2nd feature from Gaza's tiny movie industry revisits resistance theme

By IBRAHIM BARZAK  
The Associated Press

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip — Gaza's tiny movie industry may struggle with amateur actors and power outages, but at least it has a winning formula of which the producers never seem to tire: the heroics, from a Palestinian perspective, of those fighting Israeli occupation.

"Losing Shalit" will be the second feature-length film made in the blockaded territory since 2009. It's the first of a planned three-part series about the 2006 capture of Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit by gunmen allied with the Islamic militant Hamas movement. It's in production and parts two and three will depict Shalit's time in captivity and his 2011 swap for hundreds of Palestinian prisoners held by Israel.

Like the first Gaza film, about a senior militant commander, it received financing from the Hamas government. The Shalit capture and eventual prisoner swap are seen by Hamas as a triumph in its long-running confrontation with Israel, and helped boost the movement's support in Gaza.

Writer-director Majed Jundiyeih, who also made the territory's first full-length feature, "Emad Akei" — a 2009 film about the Hamas military wing commander of the same name — said his work is intentionally political. "I'm working to establish a movie industry of resistance in Gaza, to

reflect the Palestinian story with Palestinian actors," he said.

Jundiyeih, 47, studied film in Germany in the 1980s and 1990s and said his teachers included director Volker Schlöndorff, a prominent member of the New German Cinema. After his return to Gaza in 1996, Jundiyeih made documentaries and acted in a soap opera on Palestine TV.

Since the Emad Akei movie, filmmakers in Gaza have produced several documentaries and short films, but making full-length movies remains a challenge. Gaza has suffered from border blockades by neighboring Egypt and Israel since Hamas seized the territory in a violent takeover in 2007. Egypt tightened its border closure several months ago, exacerbating daily power cuts.

Jundiyeih said he contends with funding shortages, lack of equipment and crews without technical expertise. The Culture Ministry in Gaza is financing the Shalit movie, along with contributions from a local production company, al-Watani-

ya, and Jundiyeih himself, according to al-Wataniya.

In an added difficulty, most of the dialogue in the 105-minute "Losing Shalit" is in Hebrew, a language most of the dozens of amateur actors don't speak.

That includes Mahmoud Karira, a 27-year-old Gaza firefighter who was chosen for the Shalit role because of his resemblance to the lanky, bespectacled Israeli soldier.

"It's very hard for me to speak Hebrew," said Karira, who has eight lines. Karira said he repeats each line dozens of times before each shoot, but that the crew requires several takes.

The crew recently shot in the underground parking garage of a Gaza building that also houses the al-Wataniya company. In the movie, it's meant to be the garage of a building housing Israel's Shin Bet security service, which is in charge of interrogating Palestinians suspected of anti-Israeli activities and in the past used methods critics say amounted to abuse.

In the scene, Jundiyeih played a Shin Bet

officer nicknamed "Abu Daoud," while Fayka al-Najar, a 20-year-old management student, portrayed an Israeli prison guard called Aliza. In the scene, they chatted in Hebrew, discussing the torture of Palestinian prisoners as they walked to their car.

The scene was shot 40 times because of frequent power outages and because al-Najar fumbled her Hebrew lines.

Al-Najar was cast after answering a newspaper ad. She previously appeared in several short films by female directors about women's issues. She said she agreed to play an Israeli soldier because she wanted to highlight the suffering of Palestinian prisoners, noting that her father spent years in Israeli jails.

Israel has imprisoned tens of thousands of Palestinians for alleged political violence since capturing the West Bank, Gaza and east Jerusalem in 1967.

Palestinian politics is dominated by two camps — backers of Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas who seeks a state in the lands captured by Israel in 1967 and supporters of Hamas, which wants to set up an Islamic state between the Mediterranean and the Jordan River, including what is now Israel.

Despite the Gaza government's support, Jundiyeih said he is independent.

"I'm not Hamas," he said. "I'm a Palestinian who is proud of his people and national struggle."



# SHIFTING GEARS



The first Beetle in America, and the latest.

Volkswagen

## VW marks the 65th anniversary of the Beetle's arrival in the US

By JERRY HIRSCH  
Los Angeles Times

It's hard not to spot an import brand car on American roads.

That wasn't always the case. Volkswagen reminds us as it commemorated the shipment of the first Beetle to New York City 65 years ago.

Back in January 1949, Volkswagen delivered a VW "Type 1," or Beetle, to Ben Pon Sr., a Dutch businessman and the world's first official Volkswagen importer.

"It made inroads very tentatively, selling only two that first year, and then seemed to burst like wildfire," said Leslie Kendall, curator of the Petersen Automotive Museum. "It was the right car for the time. It did for a lot of Americans what the Model T did for generations before."

VW shipped thousands more to the United States in the early 1950s as the "Bug" established itself as America's budget car. Sales were so good that Volkswagen established a U.S. sales arm in Englewood Cliffs, N.J., in late 1955.

The Beetle sold well because it was a well-built car at a reason-



Volkswagen

**Dutch businessman Ben Pon Sr. was the first official Volkswagen importer.**

able price. And people saw it as having some style and poking fun at the larger cars that dominated U.S. roads, Kendall said.

"They were so adaptable, you could turn them into a dune

buggy, you could hop it up, you could paint it wildly," he said. "It was the car of the hippie movement and of the counterculture."

Beetle sales grew into the hundreds of thousands in the 1960s. When the Beetle was at its peak in 1970, VW's U.S. sales topped out at 570,000 vehicles.

VW is struggling to recapture that momentum. Though American drivers have always had a soft spot for the Bug, VW's trouble with reliability and quality problems pushed its cars behind low-cost, durable imports from Toyota, Honda and Nissan in the 1980s and '90s.

Although it is the third-largest car company in the world, VW has even fallen behind South Korean upstart Hyundai in U.S. sales.

The German automaker sold 408,000 VWs in the United States last year and just 43,000 Beetle hardtops and convertibles. But it remains committed to the model.

"The Beetle has become part of the cultural fabric in America and we are proud that its rich heritage continues to live with fans around the States," said Michael Horn, chief executive of Volkswagen Group of America.



Volkswagen

**Pon, left, receives the first Volkswagen "Type 1" to reach American shores in January 1949.**

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 US MILITARY AND DIPLOMATIC SALES IN GERMANY

# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Navy SEAL guilty of property theft, sale

**VA** NORFOLK — A Navy SEAL has pleaded guilty to stealing government property and selling stolen munitions and explosives.

David Karl Becker, 24, of Norfolk, entered the plea Thursday in federal court in Norfolk.

According to a statement of facts filed along with his plea agreement, Becker was stationed in Virginia Beach and tried to sell military property through an outdoor equipment auction website. Federal prosecutors say the listed property included military M18 smoke grenades for sale.

On Nov. 20, an undercover agent bought two smoke grenades from Becker that were the property of the Navy. When a second purchase was arranged, Becker offered to sell the agent numerous firearms and items of military equipment. The agent bought two gas masks and 200 rounds of ammunition.

Becker will be sentenced May 9.

## Engineer inspecting venue after evacuation

**GA** ATLANTA — A century-old concert hall in downtown Atlanta is being inspected by an engineer — and postponing at least one upcoming show — after fans were evacuated during a rock concert.

Atlanta police spokeswoman Kim Jones said Panic! at the Disco was performing Friday night when the floor of The Tabernacle was deemed unsafe. A fire marshal evacuated the building shortly before 10:30 p.m.

Chelle Leary, 15, of Roswell, said the floor was flat when she entered for Friday's show. But she said she felt as if she was walking up a slight hill as she was being evacuated. No injuries were reported.

Singer-songwriter Corey Smith was scheduled to perform Saturday. He told fans his concert has been rescheduled for May 10 due to floor problems.

The building opened in 1910.

## Veterans' records damaged by mold

**MI** FLINT — Specialists in Livonia will try to restore thousands of pages of Genesee County veterans' military papers that sustained water, mildew and mold damage.

Some of the records date at least as far back as World War II. Most are discharge papers damaged by moisture at an offsite storage facility, where they had been stored until recent years, Genesee County Clerk John Gleason said.

The county isn't sure whether any records have been damaged beyond repair.

"We're hoping that hasn't happened," Gleason said.

**Officers catch burglars, rescue stolen puppy**

**NY** DEERPARC — Four people face burglary charges and a puppy stolen in

## THE CENSUS

**\$7M**

The approximate value of checks the state of Iowa has issued that have gone uncashed in the past 19 months, and it's not easy to find out if any of that money is yours. Technical problems have kept the state from including its uncashed checks in the "Treasure Hunt" database on the state treasurer's website. Officials hope to fix that later this year.



ETHAN HYMAN, THE (RALEIGH, N.C.) NEWS & OBSERVER/AP

## Chowing down for charity

From left, Drew Mooney, Cathy Fromen, Marc Kai and Heather Mooney eat doughnuts Saturday during the 10th annual Krispy Kreme Challenge in Raleigh, N.C. An estimated 7,700 runners departed from the North Carolina State University campus, raced to the Krispy Kreme store on Person Street and ate a dozen doughnuts as quickly as possible. Runners then made their way back to the starting point, for a total distance of about 5 miles. The challenge has raised more than a half-million dollars for charity since its beginning.

Pennsylvania has been rescued following a break-in at an Orange County home.

State Police in Middletown said a Deerpark resident called 911 Saturday afternoon to report that men were trying to break into his house. A suspect armed with a handgun broke in the front door while the caller was on the phone. Police said the burglars drove off, but their car was tracked down in Port Jervis. As a trooper tried to pull them over, a brown-and-white pit bull puppy was thrown from the car.

The car was stopped and four young men, ages 15 to 20, were taken into custody. The unhurt puppy was returned to its owners in Matamoros, Pa., whose 55-inch TV also was stolen.

## Chain saw sparks accidental fire at home

**NJ** MANALAPAN — Authorities say a resident doing yard work accidentally started a fire that severely damaged a central New Jersey home. No injuries were reported in the

fire, which broke out shortly after 1 p.m. Saturday in Manalapan. Extensive smoke and fire damage left the home uninhabitable.

Authorities said the resident was working with a chain saw and put it down on top of dry pine needles. The needles quickly caught fire, and the blaze spread to a nearby pine tree.

The tree was near the home's gas meter, which caught fire, and the flames then spread to the home's siding and attic before the fire was extinguished.

The Monmouth County Fire Marshal's Office deemed the fire accidental.

## 100 firefighters honored on Medal Day

**FL** DORAL — One hundred Miami-Dade County firefighters were to be recognized for their service during Medal Day.

A statement from Miami-Dade Fire Rescue said Medal Day recognizes "the meritorious efforts of the men and women who perform above and beyond the call of duty in a job that requires unpar-

alleled bravery every day."

The awards were to be handed out Saturday in Doral. It was the 14th annual Medal Day.

The firefighters were being recognized in five different categories, with the highest being the Exceptional Service Award. Award recipients include firefighters who saved a person from a near drowning to those who saved two children from a burning home.

## University dorm room thefts investigated

**MD** COLLEGE PARK — Police at the University of Maryland are warning of a series of dorm room thefts on the College Park campus.

The police department said in a note to the campus community Friday that the thefts by an unknown man had occurred during the previous week at Denton, Centreville and Cumberland halls.

A police spokeswoman said the thefts appear to have been carried out at random. Police said eight thefts from unlocked dorm rooms were report-

ed Friday morning. The suspect in that case was a man dressed in black and carrying two bags.

## Volunteers needed to create veterans shelter

**LA** BASTROP — Organizers behind efforts to convert a former nursing home into a shelter for veterans say they need more volunteers to help with the work.

The News-Star reported that the Northeast Louisiana Veterans Association unveiled plans for the facility in August 2013.

The building was donated by Bishop Johnston, of Monroe. Johnston's family bought the abandoned nursing home some years earlier to use as a climate-controlled warehouse.

The Atlanta-based Home Depot chain has provided \$13,000 and volunteer labor for the remodeling.

But organizers say more of both are needed to get the 26,500-foot shelter operational sometime in 2014.

From wire reports



## FACES

## 'Lego Movie' pieces together \$69.1 million opening

By AMY KAUFMAN  
Los Angeles Times

All the pieces connected for "The Lego Movie" at the box office over the weekend, as the 3-D animated release far exceeded industry expectations to post the biggest opening of the year.

The family film premiered with a robust \$69.1 million, according to an estimate from distributor Warner Bros., after pre-release audience surveys heading into the weekend indicated the picture would open at about \$50 million.

Meanwhile, George Clooney's latest directorial effort, the World War II tale "The Monuments Men," had a respectable premiere weekend of \$22.7 million. The only other film debuting nationwide last weekend, the teen fantasy "Vampire Academy," showed no signs of life, with a dismal \$4.1 million opening.

Before "The Lego Movie" hit theaters, it was clear that the film was resonating with critics: The picture had a 95 percent "fresh" rating on Rotten Tomatoes. But moviegoers loved it too, assigning it an average grade of A, according to market-research firm CinemaScore.

The movie could end up grossing close to \$200 million — especially given that the next family film, Disney's "Mr. Peabody & Sherman," isn't due until March. "The Lego Movie" opening surpasses "Ride Along," which broke January box office records by taking in about \$48 million.

The "Lego" success is a major win for Warner Bros., which isn't a huge player in animation. The studio said it financed the film for about \$60 million, a sum considered cheap for a genre in which movies cost upward of \$150 million to produce. Warner Bros. hasn't released an animated film since 2011, when its "Happy Feet Two" ended with a lackluster \$64 million domestically.

The strong performance of "The Lego Movie" all but guaranteed a sequel, said Dan Fellman, the studio's president of domestic distribution.

Written and directed by Phil Lord and Chris Miller — creators of the "Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs" franchise — "The Lego Movie" was made with cooperation from the world's second-biggest toy company. The film follows an upbeat construction worker (voiced by Chris Pratt) who is whisked away from his humdrum job by a nonconformist (Elizabeth Banks) for an adventure.

"The Monuments Men" opening is the best by far for Clooney, who co-wrote the script with producing partner Grant Heslov. Of the four films the actor directed previously, the biggest hit was the 2011 political thriller "The Ides of March," which launched with \$10.5 million and went on to gross \$41 million.

"The Monuments Men" follows a motley crew of older, out-of-shape men trying to recover art stolen by the Nazis. Its star-lar cast also includes Matt Damon, Cate Blanchett and Bill Murray.



WARNER BROS. PICTURES/AP

**Bad Cop/Good Cop, voiced by Liam Neeson, is one of the characters in "The Lego Movie" that exceeded expectations in having the biggest opening of 2014.**



AP

## LaBeouf's red-carpet style trend: Baggy

### Actor makes a scene at Berlin Film Festival

The Associated Press

Actor Shia LaBeouf hit the Berlin Film Festival memorably Sunday, first walking out of a press conference for the film "Nymphomaniac Volume I," then wearing a paper bag over his head at the red carpet premiere.

The actor posed for photographers in a stylish tuxedo — and a paper bag with eyeholes and the words "I am not famous anymore" written across it. LaBeouf has frequently used the statement on his Twitter page, and he was identifiable by a tattoo on his hand.

The unconventional attire came shortly after the star walked out of a press conference with co-stars Uta Uthman

and Christian Slater to promote Lars von Trier's film, the first installment of a two-part drama about a woman's sexual life from girlhood to age 50.

A reporter's question as to whether the actors were worried about the film's sex scenes elicited the response: "When the seagulls follow the trawler, it is because they think sardines will be thrown into the sea. Thank you very much." He then walked out.

LaBeouf's line was borrowed from French soccer player Eric Cantona, who baffled reporters with it in the mid-1990s following his suspension for a flying kick on a heckler.

The actor has come under fire for borrowing dialogue and story line for his short film, "Howard Antfair.com," which closely resembled a 2007 graphic novel by Daniel Clowes.

## Next steps unclear in Woody Allen saga

A week bracketed by letters of accusation and denial of child molestation left little clarity and scant hope for resolution in a bitter saga that has haunted Woody Allen and the Farrow family for more than two decades.

The back-and-forth between Allen and his adopted daughter, Dylan Farrow, breathed new fire into a long-dormant scandal, but what happens next is uncertain.

Farrow, in her most detailed account yet, alleged in an open letter published Feb. 1 by The New York Times that Allen "sexually assaulted" her when she was 7 years old at the Farrow's Connecticut home, renewing a charge against the movie director that was first leveled in 1992. An investigation in 1993 did not result in any charges against Allen.

Allen responded to Farrow's most recent claims in a letter posted online Friday night by the Times that insisted "of course I did not molest Dylan." He instead claimed the young Dylan had been coerced and misled by her mother, Mia Farrow.

"I loved (Dylan) and hope one day she will grasp how she has been cheated out of having a loving father and exploited by a mother more interested in her own festering anger than her daughter's well-being," said Allen.

Allen ended his letter by declaring it would be his "final word on this entire matter."

Though the endgame of the situation is unclear, Dylan Farrow has suggested she's already accomplished her goal.

"If speaking out about my experience can help others stand up to their tormentors, it will be worth the pain and suffering my father continues to inflict on me," Farrow said in a statement following Allen's op-ed. "I won't let the truth be buried and I won't be silenced."

From The Associated Press

## Harris has fun at Hasty Pudding ceremony

The Associated Press

Neil Patrick Harris, dressed in a wig, lingerie and red heels, took the stage at Harvard University on Friday to accept the 2014 Man of the Year Award from America's oldest undergraduate drama troupe.

The "How I Met Your Mother" star cast a few spells, pretended to save a man from choking and sang a jingle from "Rent" before being awarded the Hasty Pudding Theatricals' annual Pudding Pot.

"I felt remarkably good in heels," Harris said after the ceremony, adding that he had spent seven hours in heels to practice.

Harris was showered with ridicule by the show's roasters, who said he was best known for 200 episodes of "crappy" television.

The Emmy Award-winning actor has spent 25 years in entertainment playing roles in TV, in film and on stage, where he has sung, danced and even performed magic tricks. He also has hosted the Tony and Emmy awards.



Harris

Harris, who has appeared in the "Harold & Kumar" and "The Smurfs" movies and has starred in three Broadway plays, is most recently known for his role as Barney Stinson on "How I Met Your Mother," a hit CBS comedy in its ninth and final season.

## Other news

■ Music icon **Bruce Springsteen** announced a new set of U.S. tour dates Monday after finishing recent treks in South Africa, Australia and New Zealand. Springsteen and the E Street Band will kick off the 15-date tour on April 8 in Cincinnati.

■ **Essence** is known for honoring black women, but during Oscar week, they'll also be lauding the accomplishments of African-American men in film. The magazine is launching its first "Black Men in Hollywood" dinner, an intimate affair Feb. 26 that will salute the work of Spike Lee, Lee Daniels, Malcolm Lee and filmmaker Tyler Perry, who will host the event.

# BUSINESS/WEATHER

## Airbus shows A350 at Asian air show

By KELVIN CHAN  
The Associated Press

SINGAPORE—Airbus showed off its new wide-body A350 on Monday ahead of Asia's biggest airshow, signaling that the jet's delivery schedule is on track and stepping up its battle with Boeing for the lucrative long-haul market.

The European plane-maker gave reporters a look at the twin-engine A350 before it goes on display at the Singapore show starting Tuesday in its first public appearance since its debut flight in June last year. It will also join the show's flying display.

A little more than half of the jet is made of lightweight carbon fiber to make it lighter and more fuel-efficient, a key consideration for airlines contending with volatile fuel prices.

The A350, which comes in three versions typically carrying 276 to 369 passengers and has a list price ranging from \$254.3 million to \$332.1 million, will allow



JOSEPH NAM/AP

**An Airbus A350-900 test plane is displayed at Singapore's Changi Airport at a media preview Monday ahead of the upcoming Singapore Air Show.**

Airbus to step up competition in the long-haul market dominated by Boeing's 777 and 787 jets.

Airbus has received 814 orders for the A350 so far, with 30 percent coming from Asian airlines such as Hong Kong's Cathay Pacific Airways and Singapore Airlines. The region is a crucial market for plane makers because its economic growth is driving rapid expansion of jet fleets.

Airbus hopes to woo buyers by showing off the plane to trade vis-

itors on the show's first two days. Visitors won't see a plane with a completed passenger cabin because it's still outfitted with monitoring equipment used in ongoing testing.

The A350 presents an alternative to Boeing's 787, which also make extensive use of carbon fiber but suffered from teething problems last year. Light weight lithium-ion batteries that caught fire on some planes were the highest-profile problem. Air-

bus opted to abandon using the same type of battery on the A350 after the fires forced authorities to ground the 787 fleet for more than a month.

"Airbus has learned a lot from the 787 Dreamliner's unfortunate problems since its launch," said Shukor Yusof, an airline analyst at Standard & Poor's. "This is the plane for the next decade and beyond."

He predicted that Asian and Middle East carriers would place more orders over the next two years because of the plane's fuel efficiency, advanced design, long range and cheap operating and maintenance costs.

"If you're the CEO of an airline and you've seen the problems that airlines have had with their 787s, you'd seriously have to consider the A350."

Airbus promises that passengers will benefit from larger windows, bigger storage bins, better air quality and mood lighting in the cabin.

### EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (Feb. 11)	\$1.3998
Dollar buys (Feb. 11)	€0.7144
British pound (Feb. 11)	\$1.68
Japanese yen (Feb. 11)	¥100.00
South Korean won (Feb. 11)	₩1,043.00

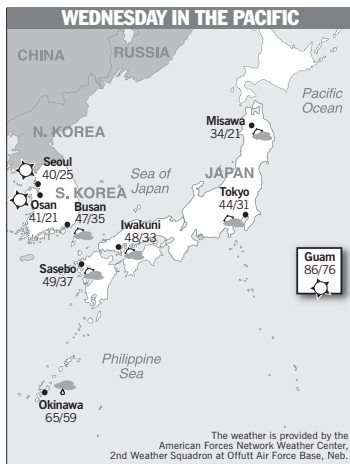
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3771
British pound	\$1.6394/£1.0000
Canada (dollar)	1.1054
China (Yuan)	6.0595
Denmark (Krone)	5.4737
Egypt (Pound)	6.9650
Euro	\$1.3632/€1.0000
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7573
Hungary (Forint)	278.38
Israel (Shekel)	3.5228
Japan (Yen)	102.18
Kuwait (Dinar)	2.823
Norway (Krone)	6.1432
Philippines (Peso)	44.96
Poland (Zloty)	3.307
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7505
Singapore (Dollar)	1.2707
South Korea (Won)	1,072.30
Switzerland (Franc)	0.8977
Thailand (Baht)	32.82
Turkey (New Lira)	2.1208

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the United Kingdom, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

### INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	3.25
Discount rate	4.25
Federal funds market rate	0.07
3-month bill	0.04
30-year bond	3.67

## WEATHER OUTLOOK



The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

### Tuesday's US temperatures

City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr
Able, Tex	33	23	Cldy	Chatanooga	38	30	Snow	Fort Wayne	13	-9	Cldy	Louisville	21	5	PCldy
Akron, Ohio	13	1	PCldy	Chicago	11	-8	Cir	Fresno	67	44	PCldy	Lubbock	36	19	Cldy
Albany, N.Y.	20	7	PCldy	Cincinnati	18	-1	Cir	Grand Junction	43	22	PCldy	Macon	43	41	Rain
Albuquerque	53	34	PCldy	Cleveland	13	2	PCldy	Great Rapids	18	2	Cldy	Medford	58	39	Cldy
Allentown, Pa.	23	6	Cir	Colorado Springs	44	17	PCldy	Green Bay	43	29	Cir	Memphis	30	17	Cldy
Anchorage	36	16	Cir	Columbia, S.C.	37	36	Rain	Greensboro, N.C.	36	28	Cldy	Miami Beach	82	68	PCldy
Asheville	16	4	Cir	Columbus, Ga.	46	42	Rain	Harrisburg	23	6	Cir	Midland-Odessa	36	23	Cldy
Atlanta	36	36	Snow	Columbus, Ohio	16	1	Cir	Hartford Spfld	11	-6	Cir	Missoula	12	-11	Cir
Atlantic City	28	12	Cir	Concord, N.H.	23	5	Cir	Corpus Christi	43	42	Rain	Mobile	35	28	Snow
Austin	34	28	Cir	Dallas-Ft. Worth	37	27	Snow	Honolulu	81	66	Cir	Montgomery	45	40	Rain
Baltimore	27	16	Cir	Dayton	14	-3	Cir	Houston	38	36	Rain	Nashville	33	17	Cldy
Baton Rouge	44	41	Rain	Daytona Beach	76	51	PCldy	Huntsville	36	26	Snow	New Orleans	50	48	Rain
Bilings	40	23	Cldy	Denver	43	17	PCldy	Indianapolis	15	-1	Cir	New York City	26	16	Cir
Birmingham	36	31	Snow	Des Moines	15	-10	PCldy	Jackson, Miss.	36	32	Cir	Newark	26	16	Cir
Bismarck	32	-5	Snow	Detroit	15	0	Cir	Jacksonville	68	48	Cir	Norfolk, Va.	34	27	PCldy
Boise	44	33	Cldy	Duluth	17	-15	PCldy	Jamez	16	3	PCldy	North Platte	34	-5	Cir
Boston	24	14	Cir	El Paso	58	44	Rain	Kansas City	19	-4	Cir	Omaha	22	0	PCldy
Bridgeport	24	14	Cir	Elkins	29	9	PCldy	Kearney	88	68	Cir	Orlando	79	53	PCldy
Brownsville	47	47	Rain	Erie	11	5	Snow	Knoxville	37	26	Cldy	Paderborn	23	7	PCldy
Buffalo	12	2	Cldy	Evansville	43	41	Rain	Lake Charles	39	36	Rain	Pendleton	40	29	Cldy
Burlington, Vt.	14	2	Cldy	Fairbanks	10	-30	Cir	Lansing	16	-1	Cldy	Phoenix	75	51	Cir
Caribou, Maine	8	-6	Cir	Fargo	18	-15	Cir	Las Vegas	65	46	Cir	Pittsburgh	18	1	PCldy
Charleston, S.C.	37	16	Cir	Flagstaff	50	24	PCldy	Lincoln	23	3	PCldy	Portland, Me.	49	39	Cldy
Charleston, W.Va.	32	14	PCldy	Flint	14	-6	Cir	Little Rock	30	21	Cldy	San Diego	58	48	Cir
Charlotte, N.C.	35	31	Snow	Fort Smith	33	21	Cldy	Los Angeles	76	53	Cir	San Francisco	58	48	Cir

National temperature extremes  
Hi: Sun., 84, Dryden, Texas  
Lo: Sun., -27, Crane Lake, Minn.

# Stripes

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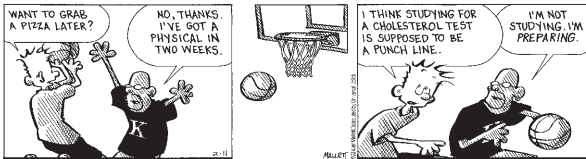
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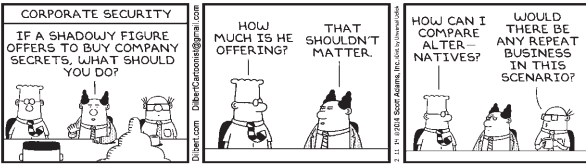
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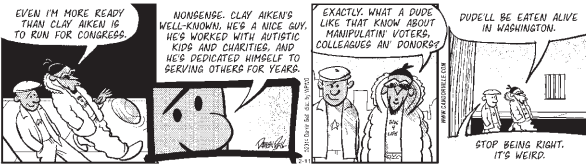
Pearls Before Swine



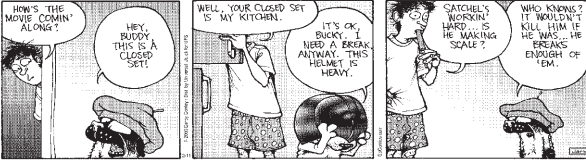
Non Sequitur



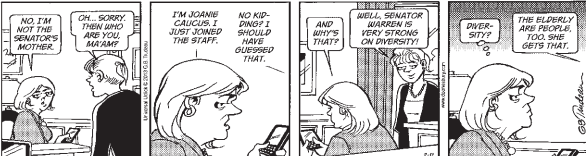
Candorville



Get Fuzzy



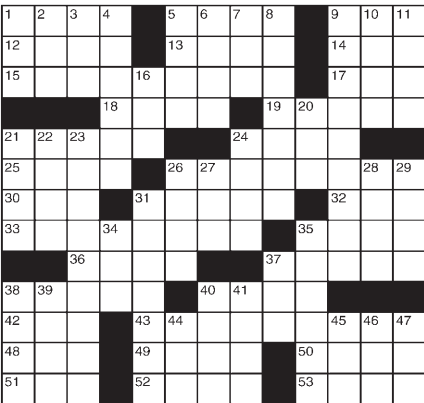
Doonesbury



Fort Knox



## Eugene Sheffer Crossword



### ACROSS

- 1 Consider
- 5 "If I may interrupt ..."
- 9 Dine
- 12 Opposed
- 13 Unembellished
- 14 Basic cable channel
- 15 Bedframe part
- 17 Agent, for short
- 18 Will-o'-the-—
- 19 Prefix with "red"
- 21 Battery type
- 24 Wound cover
- 25 Without acting
- 26 Light, open car
- 30 Poseidon's domain
- 31 Undomesticated
- 32 Gorilla
- 33 Stabbing
- 35 Experts
- 36 Cereal choice
- 37 Failed to
- 38 Francis — Key
- 40 October stone
- 42 Carte lead-in
- 43 Highway sign
- 48 Needlessly
- 49 A Great Lake
- 50 Molt
- 51 Toss in
- 52 Delany or Carvey
- 53 Right on the map?

### DOWN

- 1 Doo follower
- 2 Compass pt.
- 3 Greek vowel
- 4 Amusement park area
- 5 Biblical prophet
- 6 Jalopy
- 7 Blunder
- 8 Part of "m.e."
- 9 What you "hang ten" over
- 10 Addict
- 11 One of the Three Bears
- 16 Auction action
- 20 Arrest
- 21 Not finalized, in law
- 22 The same (Lat.)
- 23 Siding material
- 24 Unforeseen problem
- 26 Check
- 27 Grecian vessel
- 28 Fairy-tale preposition
- 29 Criterion
- 31 Truck type
- 34 Illustrations
- 35 Haïry
- 37 Slight touch
- 38 Long story
- 39 Dressed
- 40 Actress Lena
- 41 Entreaty
- 44 Savings plan acronym
- 45 "Eureka!"
- 46 Scale members
- 47 Banned insecticide

### Answer to Previous Puzzle



### 2-11

### CRYPTOQUIP

B ' Z W Q E L P L Z B F C J H N  
B F B K B H M M N Y F M N R H O O M L R B F  
W P Y E K W K Y E B L W , O Q K W Y Y F

OLCHF JEBKBFC BF LEFLWK.  
Yesterday's Cryptquip: WHEN QUESTIONED ABOUT STITCHING A COMFORTER, WOULD SAYING "YES" BE AN ADMISSION OF QUILT?  
Today's Cryptquip Clue: B equals I

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# Smart suspended 3 games for shoving fan

"This is not how I conduct myself," said Smart, a top NBA

Smart will miss games against Texas, Oklahoma and Baylor. He can return for a Feb. 22 home game against Texas Tech. But Ford said Smart will be allowed to practice.

"I would like to take this opportunity to offer my sincere apologies to Marcus Smart, Oklahoma State, Tubby Smith and the Texas Tech Men's Basketball program," Orr said in the statement. "My actions last night were inappropriate and do not reflect myself or Texas Tech — a university I love dearly. I regret calling Mr. Smart a 'piece of crap' but I wanted to make it known that I did not use a racial slur of any kind."

Walker joined some exclusive company. He is only the fourth player in the last 20 years to win three times in his first eight starts to a season. The others are Tiger Woods (who has done it eight

Coetzee closed with a 6-under 66 at Royal Johannesburg and Kensington to finish at 19-under 268.

For information on Commercial Rates: **CIV: 0631-3615-9013/0912 or DSN: 583-9013/9012**

[illegible][illegible]





## COLLEGE BASKETBALL

## No. 1 Syracuse stays unbeaten

Orange top Clemson for 23-0 mark

By JOHN KERIS

The Associated Press

SYRACUSE, N.Y. — Another challenge. Another challenge met.

C.J. Fair rebounded from his worst game of the season with 19 points, Jerami Grant added 12 in an expanded role down low, and No. 1 Syracuse beat Clemson 57-44 on Sunday night to remain unbeaten.

No matter what or who they've faced this season, the Orange have found a way to win.

Fair, who was 2-for-13 for a season-low six points against Notre Dame on Monday, responded with an 8-for-13 shooting night in playing K.J. McDaniels of Clemson to a virtual standstill. McDaniels also scored 19 and had a game-high 10 rebounds, three more than Fair, and both played 39 minutes.

"It's all about going to the next game. You don't want to dwell on a good or bad game. We had good rhythm coming into this game," Fair said. "I just needed to be aggressive and not really force things. Coach is always stressing that. That's what I was trying to do, play off my teammates."

"Without wearing myself out, I wanted to wear him (McDaniels) out," Fair said. "When the best player on the opposite team is guarding you, you want to make their job hard. I just wanted to keep him busy."

Syracuse (23-0, 10-0 Atlantic

Coast Conference) extended its school record for wins to start a season and matched the program mark for consecutive wins, established in the 1916-17 and 1917-18 seasons. It was the third meeting between the teams and first in Syracuse, and the Orange's first victory.

"They have very good pieces that fit together," Clemson coach Brad Brownell said. "Everybody has a role. They embrace their role. They're very unselfish. There doesn't look to be any jealousy."

Syracuse has faced a slow pace for most of the season and when the Orange went ahead 48-37 on Tyler Ennis' lefty layup with 6:56 to play, coach Jim Boeheim could breathe a sigh of relief.

"You really don't want to be behind in a slow game," Boeheim said. "There aren't going to be a lot of points scored."

This victory came with the 6-foot-8 Grant playing substantial time in the second half at center with starter Rakeem Christmas on the bench with four fouls and Baye Moussa Keita next to him with a sprained right knee. A month ago, before hulking sophomore center Dajuan Coleman was lost for the season to a knee injury, Syracuse had 15 fouls to give at the position.

"It's fine. Whatever my team needs," Grant said. "I think that's what makes us a great team. I know to get used to it. I've just got to know where all the rebounds



Syracuse's C.J. Fair, right, drives to the basket against Clemson's K.J. McDaniels during the second half Sunday in Syracuse, N.Y. No. 1 Syracuse won 57-44 to move its record to 23-0.

are, know where other people are."

It was the 10th time Clemson (15-7, 6-4) had faced the No. 1 team in the nation, and the Tigers have yet to win. The last time Clemson played a No. 1 team was against North Carolina, an 86-81 loss in the 2008 ACC tournament, and the Tigers' last true

roadgame against the nation's No. 1 team was Feb. 8, 2004, an 81-55 loss at Duke.

"It was frustrating," Jaron Blossomgame said. "There were some good things, but from a team standpoint, we're all competitors. We want to win. We feel like every game we go into we can win."

Roundup  
Arizona gets past Oregon St.

The Associated Press

TUCSON, Ariz. — Aaron Gordon had 17 points, Rondae Hollis-Jefferson added 16 and No. 2 Arizona found its shooting touch in a 76-54 win over Oregon State on Monday.

After two weeks of struggles on offense, Arizona (23-1, 10-1 Pac-12) finally found some answers in its second game without injured forward Brandon Ashley. The Wildcats took control with a big run to end the first half and kept the Beavers from mounting a rally by shooting 50 percent.

T.J. McConnell had 11 points, six rebounds and six assists for Arizona, which has won 30 of its past 31 against the Beavers at McKale Center.

Oregon State (13-10, 5-6) had little chance against the athletic Wildcats, unable to spring Robert Nelson or chip away at Arizona's 10-point halftime lead.

Nelson, the Pac-12's leading scorer, had 10 points on 3-for-12 shooting. Angus Brandt led the Beavers with 14 points.

**St. John's 70, No. 12 Creighton 65:** D'Angelo Harrison scored 19 points, including the go-ahead three-point shot with 2:08 to play east host St. John's (15-9, 5-6 Big East) beat Creighton (19-4, 9-2) for its sixth win in seven games.

Chris Okeke tied his career high with 11 points for the Red Storm, who avenged their only loss in that seven-game stretch.

Doug McDermott matched his nation-leading average with 25 points for the Bluejays, who had won 14 of 15 and were tied for first place in the conference with Villanova. McDermott didn't score over the final 8:40.

**No. 22 Connecticut 75, Central Florida 55:** Lasan Kromah and Shabazz Napier each had 17 points and seven rebounds as visiting Connecticut (18-5, 6-4 American Athletic Conference) easily defeated skidding Central Florida (9-11, 1-8).

DeAndre Daniels had 16 points and seven rebounds for the Huskies, and Ryan Boatright scored 11. UConn led by 17 at halftime and withstood a mild second-half rally by the Knights to win for the fourth time in five games.

**Houston 88, Temple 74:** TaShawn Thomas had 25 points and nine rebounds as Houston (12-12, 4-7 American Athletic Conference) snapped its five-game losing streak with a win over Temple (6-16, 1-9). Thomas finished 10-for-12 shooting and had six blocks as the Cougars shot 54 percent for the game, including 11-for-24 from behind the arc.

**Illinois 60, Penn St. 55:** Kendrick Nunn scored 11 of his 19 points in the second half and visiting Illinois (14-10, 3-8 Big Ten) halted its eight-game losing streak with a victory over Penn State (12-12, 3-8).

## Wisconsin upsets No. 5 Michigan State

By GENARO C. ARMAS

The Associated Press

MADISON, Wis. — In the closing seconds of a close game, Traevon Jackson takes the big shots for Wisconsin.

Doesn't matter if the point guard had been struggling in recent weeks with his shot. Or if he's having a tough day handling the ball, as he did Sunday with five turnovers against Michigan State. Coach Bo Ryan trusts the tough junior.

Jackson rewarded his coach's confidence Sunday after hitting a pull-up jumper from about 10 feet with 2.1 seconds left to lift the Badgers to a 60-58 win over the ninth-ranked Spartans.

"That's sort of what they expected of me is just to finish the game," Jacksons said. "The pull-up was there, and I was blessed to be able to make it go in."

Jackson's jumper, with Gary Harris in his face capped a frenetic final minute in which Mich-

igan State's Adreian Payne tied it with a three with 10 seconds left.

A desperation three-point by Michigan State from midcourt banged off the rim as time expired, and the Wisconsin faithful erupted with applause. The victory snapped a three-game losing skid at home.

"Just [because] they lost a couple of home games — and that's un-American in the Cheesehead State — don't kid yourself. They're a very good team," coach Tom Izzo said.

The Badgers (19-5, 6-5 Big Ten) committed 14 turnovers, six more than their NCAA-leading 8.3 per game, but gutted out a win over the Spartans (20-4, 9-2).

Jackson hit three game-tying or winning jumps in his first year at the point last season as a sophomore. He's the go-to guy in the clutch again this year.

"We executed that last three-point as well as we've executed any play in the last 10 years," Izzo said. "I've watched two years'



Wisconsin's Ben Brust (1) shoots between Michigan State's Gary Harris (14) and Denzel Valentine (45) in the second half of Sunday's game in Madison, Wis.

worth of Jackson hitting game-winning shots, so I put my best defender on him. And he hit another one."

Still, the Badgers had every right to be nervous. More than a week ago in a similar spot in a loss to Ohio State, a defended Jackson had to pass up a final shot to teammate Sam Dekker, who missed a rushed three at the buzzer.

Jackson also went through a rough 12-for-45 shooting stretch, during which Wisconsin went 1-4. But he's 7-for-12 now over his last two games, both Badgers wins. After a tough stretch of five losses in six games, Wisconsin clawed its way to a second straight victory.

Jackson finished with seven points and tied a career high with eight assists, but had five turnovers. No matter to Ryan.

"His decision-making has been a little sporadic at times, but in a last-second situation, if it starts in his hands, I feel very confident we're going to get something," Ryan said.

Freshman Nigel Hayes led Wisconsin with 14 points off the bench. Dekker added 11. Payne led Michigan State with 24 points.

## FOOTBALL

# Sam could be NFL's first openly gay player

Mizzou All-America DE, a projected mid-round pick, comes out on ESPN

By RALPH D. RUSSO  
The Associated Press

Tolerance is about to be tested in the National Football League.

And Michael Sam hopes his ability is all that matters, not his sexual orientation.

Missouri's All-America defensive end came out to the entire country Sunday night and could become the first openly gay player in America's most popular sport. "I just want to go to the team who drafts me," Sam told ESPN in an interview that aired Sunday, "because that team knows about me, knows that I'm gay, and also knows that I work hard. That's the team I want to go to."

Nobody has ever done this before.

In interviews with ESPN, The New York Times and Outsports, Sam said publicly for the first time that he was gay. He said he came out to his teammates and coaches at Missouri in August.

Sam will participate in the NFL Combine later this month in Indianapolis and is projected to be a mid-round draft pick in May.

"Hopefully it will be the same like my locker room," he told ESPN. "It's a workplace. If you've ever been in a Division I or pro locker room, it's a business place. You want to act professional."

Sam received much public support Sunday night from people throughout the world of sports.

"I can't wait to cheer for whatever lucky team that drafts @ MikeSamFootball. Personally I hope he goes to my favorite team. The @Colts" tweeted Jason Collins, the pro basketball player who said publicly last season that he is gay.

There also were words of caution.

Offensive lineman Frank Garcia, who played nine seasons

(1995-2003) in the NFL with the Panthers, Rams and Cardinals, said Sam could face "huge challenges" in the league.

Garcia was teammates and good friends with defensive lineman Esera Tualo, who announced he was gay on HBO's Real Sports in 2002 — three years after he left the NFL.

Garcia said although he and Tualo regularly hung out as teammates in Carolina in 1999, Tualo never once let on that he was gay.

"I think a lot of guys in the NFL are going to say they will accept it, but there are a lot of guys who won't," said Garcia, now a sports radio show host with WFNZ-AM in Charlotte. "The reality is Michael Sam is going to open himself up to a lot of criticism and a lot of challenges. Those are challenges most gay people have to go through, but when you are dealing with alpha males and some meatheads in an NFL locker room it's amplified. And there are some guys who have strong religious beliefs, too, so he's going to be judged. He's going to face some things that are going to be very difficult to overcome."

The 6-foot-2, 255-pound Sam participated in the Senior Bowl in Mobile, Ala., last month after leading the Southeastern Conference in sacks (11.5) and tackles for loss (19). He was the SEC defensive player of the year.

There have been a few NFL players who have come out after their playing days, including Kwame Harris and Dave Kopay.

Collins, a 35-year-old backup center, came out after last season when he was a free agent and was not signed this season. MLS star and U.S. national team player Robbie Rogers also came out a year ago.

"His courage will inspire mil-



DARRON CUMMINGS/AP

Missouri's All-America defensive end Michael Sam came out to the entire country in an interview on ESPN Sunday night, and could become the first openly homosexual player in the NFL.

lions to live their truth," Rogers tweeted about Sam.

Division III Willamette kicker Conner Mertens, a redshirt freshman, said last month he was bisexual.

"We admire Michael Sam's honesty and courage," the NFL said in statement. "Michael is a football player. Any player with ability and determination can succeed in the NFL. We look forward to welcoming and supporting Michael Sam in 2014."

Sam's announcement comes at a time gay rights and sports have collided at the Olympics in Sochi. Russia's anti-gay propaganda law has received much attention, and criticism, because of the games.

"By rewriting the script for countless young athletes, Michael has demonstrated the leadership

that, along with his impressive skills on the field, makes him a natural fit for the NFL," said Sarah Kate Ellis, president of GLAAD, a leading lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender advocacy organization. "With acceptance of LGBT people rising across our coasts — in our schools, churches, and workplaces — it's clear that America is ready for an openly gay football star."

The NFL's sexual orientation, anti-discrimination and harassment policy states:

"Coaches, General Managers and others responsible for interviewing and hiring draft-eligible players and free agents must not seek information concerning or make personnel decisions based on a player's sexual orientation. This includes asking questions

during an interview that suggest that the player's sexual orientation will be a factor in the decision to draft or sign him.

"Examples: Do you like women or men? How well do you do with the ladies? Do you have a girlfriend?"

Carolina Panthers running back DeAngelo Williams tweeted: "I could care less about a man's sexual preference! I care about winning games and being respectful in the locker room!"

Williams' teammate, cornerback Drayton Florence, posted on his Twitter account: "No comment but it can be a distraction in the locker room. At least he's open with it much respect!"

AP Sports Writer Steve Reed in Charlotte, N.C., contributed to this report.

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Three-point	Goals-Memphis	3-14	1-14
(Calathes 2-3, Prince 1-1, Randolph 0-1, Morrison 0-1, Miller 0-2, Johnson 0-2, Lee 0-4), Cleveland 10-20 2-44, Miles 3-33 0-7, Dellavedova 1-1, Derg 1-2, Walters 5-14 Memphis 56 (Gasol 9), Cleveland 59 (Va- rejo 14), Assists-Memphis 22 (Calathes 6), Cleveland 24 (Verning 22, Walters 6). Totals Fouls-Memphis 21, Cleveland 20. Technical fouls-Cleveland 1, Memphis 2. Referee third second A-A-16, 88 (25-52).			

## OLYMPICS

# US dominates 'new' winter Olympic sports

## Americans pad their medal count in first-time events

By BARRY SVRLUGA  
AND RICK MAESE  
The Washington Post

KRASNAYA POLYANA, Russia — The first 48 hours of the Sochi Olympics brought some of the most traditional of scenes.

Atop a mountain here Sunday, a young Austrian named Matthias Mayer blistered down a ski slope to win gold in the men's downhill, one of the Winter Games' long-standing glamour events.

On Saturday in Sochi, amid an orange-wearing crowd that included his country's king and queen, Sven Kramer led a Dutch sweep in the 5,000 meters to add to the speedskating medal haul of the Netherlands, which has dominated the sport since the first Winter Games in 1924.

Meanwhile, over a peak and down a nearby slope from the downhill, the United States' second gold medalist of 2014 was asked to explain her sport, the slopestyle event in snowboarding, which is brand new to the Olympics this year. "It's like playing," Jamie Anderson said. "We're pretty much snowboarding on a playground up there."

Each Winter Games — and each introduction of a new sport — seems to bring another chance for Americans to pad their medal totals, and the divide between tradition and innovation, between customs and relevance, grows wider.

It can scarcely go unnoticed through the first weekend in Sochi, where the International

Olympic Committee has added 12 new events. And no country has taken more advantage of the sports expansion than the United States — highlighted by the inaugural slopestyle gold medals won by Anderson and Sage Kotsenburg, the only golds for Americans thus far.

Three of the four American medals the first weekend of the Games came in events that didn't exist four years ago.

"I think the president of the IOC should be Johnny Knoxville because basically this stuff is 'Jackass' stuff that they invented and called Olympic sports," Bob Costas said on NBC said before the Games began, referring to the comedic daredevil known for, among other things, crashing into all manner of impediments.

The IOC, along with its broadcast and advertising partners, began seeking younger audiences with the introduction of short-track speedskating in 1992 and with snowboarding six years later. Eight of the 12 new events at these Games have their origins in extreme sports.

At the 1998 Winter Games in Nagano, Japan, the United States won six golds and 13 medals overall, scant production from one of the world's largest sports-playing nations.

Four years later, on home soil in Salt Lake City, those numbers rose to 10 golds and 34 total medals, a huge jump. That's because no other country did a better job of taking advantage of the newer sports. Fourteen of those medals



ANDY WONG/AP

Sage Kotsenburg of the United States, center, celebrates with Norway's Ståle Sandbeck, left, and Canada's Mark McMorris after Kotsenburg won the snowboard slopestyle final at the Rosa Khutor Extreme Park on Saturday in Krasnaya Polyana, Russia. Sandbeck took the silver and McMorris the bronze.

**'I think the president of the IOC should be Johnny Knoxville because basically this stuff is 'Jackass' stuff they invented and called Olympic sports.'**

Bob Costas

NBC studio host for the Sochi Olympics

came in sports that weren't on the Olympic program before 1992.

In the various disciplines of snowboarding, for instance, the Americans have led the medal count in every Olympics since the debut in 1998, taking 21 medals — nearly one-third of the 66 awarded — and nine of the 22 available golds.

In 2010, when the United States won 37 medals in Vancouver — more than any other country — 15 came from snowboarding, freestyle skiing and short-track speedskating.

This is, in part, because the U.S. Olympic Committee has spent time analyzing where it can best put its resources, matching money with opportunity.

"We've been able to really cus-

tomize and drill down where we can have the greatest impact," Alan Ashley, the USOC's chief of sport performance, said before the competition in Sochi began. "I'd like to try to get as many athletes opportunities as possible to become obviously Olympians, then become successful Olympians as well."

Only six sports have been contested in each of the 22 Winter Olympics, dating from 1924 — cross-country skiing, figure skating, ice hockey, ski jumping, Nordic combined (which combines cross-country skiing and ski jumping) and speedskating. Alpine skiing didn't debut until 1936.

The Sochi Games are only a few days old, and the United

States will be favored to win medals in Alpine skiing, bobsled, even cross-country. But the lasting images of Americans came from the obstacle-laden course at snowboarding's slopestyle venue, where even the competitors seemed to be surprised at the newfound attention, both to themselves and to their sport.

"I've never really thought about the Olympics until it got put in," said Bill Enos, the American slopestyle coach.

Mike Jankowski, the head coach of the U.S. freestyle skiing and snowboarding teams, was asked why in the world his country excels at such sports.

"I think a lot of it has to do with the mind-set. A lot of it has to do with how we grew up, where we grew up and just having sport in our life — whether it be soccer, baseball, football, something traditional or your skate park around the corner or the diving board with your friends, seeing how many flips you can do off it," Jankowski said. "It's pushing the limits a little bit and keeping it fun."

Mike Wise contributed to this report.

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## OLYMPICS



DITA ALANGRANA/AP

Erin Hamlin of the United States braces in the finish area after her second run in the luge on Monday. Hamlin is third after two runs.

## Women's luge

## Hamlin in position for first US medal

By TIM REYNOLDS

The Associated Press

KRASNAYA POLYANA, Russia — History. It's what German lugers always seem to be making. And it's what Erin Hamlin is chasing.

Germany's Natalie Geisenberger closed in on what appears to be an inevitable Olympic gold medal Monday night, finishing the first two runs of the women's luge competition in 1 minute, 39.814 seconds. That's 0.766 seconds better than her countrywoman Tatjana Huefner, who took the title at the Vancouver Games.

Germans first and second? That's no surprise.

Instead, the surprise is who's on their heels in third.

Hamlin — trying to be the first American to win a singles luge medal at the Olympics — was second after the first heat, then slipped to third at the midway point after losing about a tenth of a second to Huefner in her second trip down the Sanki Sliding Center track.

Still, a medal is very much within reach for the 2009 world champion from Remsen, N.Y.

"I'll take it," Hamlin said. "Definitely."

Huefner's time was 1:40.580. Hamlin's was 1:40.632, giving her a cushion of 0.216 seconds over fourth-place Natalja Khoreva of Russia.

The final two runs are Tuesday

night.

Barring a crash or major mistake from Geisenberger, no one will be catching her for the top spot — her lead at the midway point is the second-largest in women's Olympic luge history.

"The first run was perfect," Geisenberger said. "The second one was a little bit worse, but good enough. I'm absolutely satisfied with both runs."

So the race is essentially for second, and an American actually has a shot. Three times in Olympic singles luge history, U.S. man or woman has finished in fourth. The U.S. has four Olympic luge medals, all in doubles, two silver and two bronze.

Hamlin was 12th at the 2010 Games and 16th four years ago in Vancouver, where the start position was moved down the track after a men's slider died in a training accident hours before those Olympics began.

Hamlin never figured out the new start and her chances there ended essentially before the race even got started.

Not this time. Training times suggested she would be in the mix, and two solid runs Tuesday might give her what she's spent half a lifetime chasing.

"I like my consistency," Hamlin said.

Also for the U.S., Kate Hansen of La Canada, Calif., is 10th, and Summer Britcher of Glen Rock, Pa., is 15th.

## Scoreboard

Medals table				
Through Monday (4 of 5 medal events)				
Nation	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
Netherlands	3	2	2	7
Norway	2	2	2	6
Canada	2	2	1	5
United States	2	2	1	5
Russia	1	2	2	5
Austria	1	2	0	3
Czech Republic	1	2	0	3
Germany	2	0	0	2
France	1	0	0	1
Sweden	0	2	0	2
Italy	0	1	1	2

## Women's super combined

Monday At Krasnaya Polyana, Russia (Start position in parentheses)				
Downhill				
1. (22) Julia Mancuso, United States, 1:42.68.				
2. (10) Lara Gut, Switzerland, 1:43.15.				
3. (17) Tina Maze, Slovenia, 1:43.54.				
4. (11) Anna Fenninger, Austria, 1:43.67.				
5. (20) Maria Hoefl-Riesch, Germany, 1:43.72.				
6. (7) Lotte Smiseth Sejersted, Norway, 1:43.85.				
7. (19) Elisabeth Goergl, Austria, 1:43.89.				
8. (16) Nicole Hosp, Austria, 1:43.95.				
9. (14) Francesca Marsaglia, Italy, 1:43.96.				
10. (8) Dominique Gisin, Switzerland, 1:44.01.				
11. (28) Ilika Stueck, Slovenia, 1:44.26.				
12. (9) Ragnhild Mowinckel, Norway, 1:44.28.				
13. (26) Edit Miklos, Hungary, 1:44.32.				
14. (29) Elena Fanchini, Italy, 1:44.45.				
15. (21) Daniela Merighetti, Italy, 1:44.54.				
16. (5) Chemmy Alcott, Britain, 1:44.57.				
17. (13) Marusa Ferk, Slovenia, 1:44.87.				
18. (33) Klara Krizova, Czech Republic, 1:44.89.				
19. (4) Elena Yakovishina, Russia, 1:44.91.				
20. (27) Leanne Smith, United States, 1:45.06.				

Slalom				
1. (6) Sarka Strachova, Czech Republic, 50.10.				
2. (8) Michaela Kirchgasser, Austria, 50.69.				
3. (23) Maria Hoefl-Riesch, Germany, 50.90.				
4. (20) Nicole Hosp, Austria, 51.07.				
5. (5) Sara Hector, Sweden, 51.31.				
6. (7) Denise Feierabend, Switzerland, 51.95.				
7. (25) Tina Maze, Slovenia, 51.71.				
8. (16) Ragnhild Mowinckel, Norway, 51.81.				
9. (3) Federica Brignone, Italy, 51.94.				
10. (14) Marusa Ferk, Slovenia, 52.02.				
11. (18) Dominique Gisin, Switzerland, 52.11.				
12. (2) Greta Small, Australia, 52.31.				
13. (27) Julia Mancuso, United States, 52.47.				
14. (24) Anna Fenninger, Austria, 52.77.				
15. (29) Mirela Gutierrez, Andorra, 53.26.				
16. (12) Elena Yakovishina, Russia, 53.42.				
17. (3) Karolina Chrapek, Poland, 53.62.				
18. (28) Macarena Simari Birkner, Argentina, 55.06.				
19. (15) Edit Miklos, Hungary, 57.29.				
20. (13) Klara Krizova, Czech Republic, 57.51.				

Final Ranking (Downhill, Slalom, Super Combined)				
1. Maria Hoefl-Riesch, Germany, 5:14.73; 2:35.00; 2:34.62.				
2. Nicole Hosp, Austria, 5:18; 2:35.12; 2:35.02.				
3. Edit Miklos, Hungary, 5:18; 2:35.12; 2:35.02.				
4. Tina Maze, Slovenia, 5:18; 2:35.12; 2:35.02.				
5. Dominique Gisin, Switzerland, 5:18; 2:35.12; 2:35.02.				
6. Ragnhild Mowinckel, Norway, 5:18; 2:35.12; 2:35.02.				
7. Michaela Kirchgasser, Austria, 5:18; 2:35.12; 2:35.02.				
8. Anna Fenninger, Austria, 5:18; 2:35.12; 2:35.02.				
9. Klara Krizova, Czech Republic, 5:18; 2:35.12; 2:35.02.				

## Ski jumping

Monday At Krasnaya Polyana, Russia Men's 500 Final Ranking				
1. Michel Mulder, Netherlands (2, 34.63; 2, 34.67) 1:19.312.				
2. Niklas Grech, Netherlands (1, 34.59; 3, 34.72) 1:19.324.				
3. Niklas Grech, Netherlands (6, 34.69; 1, 34.49) 1:19.460.				
4. Mo Tae Bum, South Korea (4, 34.84; 5, 34.56) 1:19.670.				
5. Joli Kato, Japan (5, 34.96; 4, 34.77) 1:19.740.				
6. Keiichiro Nagashima, Japan (3, 34.78; 6, 35.29) 1:20.246.				
7. Ronch Kech, Kazakhstan (9, 35.04; 6, 35.00) 1:20.004.				
8. Nico Hilt, Germany (7, 34.99; 9, 35.11) 1:20.110.				

U.S. finishers				
24. Shani Davis, Chicago (22, 35.90; 28, 35.29) 1:19.98.				
25. Jason Lusk, Fredericks, Janesville, Wis. (18, 35.27; 37, 35.72) 1:19.99.				
26. Mitchell Whitmore, Waukesha, Wis. (20, 35.34; 35, 35.71) 1:19.06.				

NR. Brian Hansen, Glenview, Ill., NRS.

## Short track speedskating

Monday At Sochi, Russia Men's 1,500 Final B				
1. Sebastian Lepore, France, 2:21.483.				
2. Francois Hamelin, Canada, 2:21.592.				
3. Sin Da Woon, South Korea, 2:22.066.				
4. Semen Elstrov, Russia, 2:23.352.				
5. Sijinkie Kneigt, Netherlands, 2:23.891.				
NR. Park Se Yeong, South Korea, PEN.				
3. Victor An, Russia, 2:15.052.				
4. J.R. Celski, Federal Way, Wash., 2:15.624.				
5. Chen Dequan, China, 2:15.626.				
6. Lee Han-Bin, South Korea, 2:16.466.				
7. Jack Whelbourne, Britain, No Time.				

## Biathlon

Monday At Krasnaya Polyana, Russia Men's 12.5km Pursuit (Penalties in parentheses)				
1. Martin Fourcade, France, 33:48.6				
2. Ondrej Moravec, Czech Republic, 34:02.7 (0).				
3. Jean Guillaume Beatrix, France, 34:12.8 (1).				
4. Ole Einar Bjorndalen, Norway, 34:14.5 (3).				
5. Evgeny Ustuygov, Russia, 34:25.3 (1).				
6. Simon Schempp, Germany, 34:27.7 (1).				
7. Emil Hegle Svendsen, Norway, 34:28 (1).				
8. Simon Eder, Austria, 34:28.9 (2).				

## U.S. finishers

22. Tim Burke, Paul Smiths, N.Y., 35:37.0 (2).				
38. Lowell Bailey, Lake Placid, N.Y., 36:34.8 (3).				
39. Leif Nordgren, Marine on St. Croix, Minn., 39:31.4 (7).				

## Ski jumping

Monday At Krasnaya Polyana, Russia Men's K90 Individual Final				
1. Kamil Stoch, Poland, 278.0.				
2. Peter Prev, Slovenia, 265.3.				
3. Anders Bardal, Norway, 264.1.				
4. Thomas Diebitz, Austria, 258.3.				
5. Michael Hayböck, Austria, 258.0.				
6. Thomas Welling, Germany, 257.1.				
7. Maciej Kot, Poland, 255.8.				
8. Noriaki Kasai, Japan, 255.2.				

## Did Not Qualify For Final Jump 1

1. Nicki Alexander, Beaverton, N.H., 116.0.				
2. Peter Frenette, Saranac Lake, N.Y., 117.2.				
47. Anders Johnson, Park City, Utah, 104.2.				

## Luge

Monday At Krasnaya Polyana, Russia Women's Singles After Two of Four Runs				
1. Natalie Geisenberger, Germany, 1:39.84.				
2. Tatjana Huefner, Germany, 1:40.580.				
3. Erin Hamlin, United States, 1:40.632.				
4. Natalja Khoreva, Russia, 1:40.848.				
5. Alex Gough, Canada, 1:40.865.				
6. Kimberley Mearns, Canada, 1:40.919.				
7. Tatjana Ivanova, Russia, 1:40.949.				
8. Anke Wischniewski, Germany, 1:40.996.				
9. Martina Kocher, Switzerland, 1:41.04.				
10. Kate Hansen, United States, 1:41.24.				
11. Eliza Tursina, Latvia, 1:41.577.				
12. Ekaterina Buturina, Russia, 1:42.20.				
13. Ariarne Jones, Canada, 1:41.830.				
14. Sandra Gasparini, Italy, 1:41.825.				
15. Summer Britcher, United States, 1:41.96.				
16. Uliza Zire, Latvia, 1:42.284.				
17. Olga Shkumova, Ukraine, 1:42.303.				
18. Natalja Tustuzyska, Poland, 1:42.303.				
19. Nina Reithmayer, Austria, 1:42.368.				
20. Eva Klus, Poland, 1:42.393.				

## Women's hockey

Monday At Sochi, Russia Group A Preliminary Round				
W	L	OTW	OTL	Pts
United States	2	0	0	6
Canada	2	0	0	6
Finland	0	2	0	0
Switzerland	0	2	0	0

## Group B

W	L	OTW	OTL	Pts
Russia	2	0	0	6
Sweden	1	0	0	3
Switzerland	1	0	0	3
Germany	0	2	0	0

## Saturday, Feb. 8

Group A: Switzerland 3, Finland 1				
Group B: Sweden 1, Japan 0				
Group C: Russia 4, Germany 1				

## Monday, Feb. 10

Group A: United States 9, Switzerland 0				
Group B: Canada 3, Finland 0				
Group C: Germany 5, Sweden 0				
Group D: Russia 5, Japan 0				

Wednesday, Feb. 12				
Group A: Switzerland vs. Finland				
Group B: Japan vs. Germany				
Group C: Sweden vs. Russia				

## Women's curling

Country				
Canada	W-L			
Sweden	1-0			
Switzerland	1-0			
Russia	1-0			
Japan	0-0			
South Korea	0-1			
Denmark	0-1			
China	0-1			
United States	0-1			

## Thursday, Feb. 13

Canada 9, China 2				
Sweden 6, Britain 1				
Russia 7, Denmark 4				

## Friday, Feb. 14

Switzerland vs. Denmark				
Russia vs. United States				
South Korea vs. Switzerland				
Denmark vs. Japan				
China vs. Russia				

## Saturday, Feb. 15

Canada vs. Japan				
Sweden vs. Denmark				
Russia vs. South Korea				
United States vs. Switzerland				
China vs. Britain				

## Sunday, Feb. 16

South Korea vs Switzerland
Denmark vs Japan



## OLYMPICS

# First-period barrage sets tone for US rout

Women's hockey team scores 5 in opening period to blast Swiss, in position to reach medal round

By JIMMY GOLEN  
The Associated Press

SOCHI, Russia — United States forward Amanda Kessel appeared to score for her first Olympic hat trick, only to watch the referee skate over to the boards for a video review.

Oh, the puck was in the net all right, but the ref had missed a goal by Kendall Coyne a few minutes earlier, so that one counted and Kessel's had to come off the board.

"It was pretty weird, but I saw Kendall's goal go in," Kessel said after settling for two scores in the Americans' 9-0 victory over Switzerland on Monday. "It was her first one of the tournament, so I was happy for my linemate."

The Americans had more goals than they needed, anyway, getting scores from Monique Lamoureux, Brianna Decker and Kessel within 55 seconds of each other in the first period to all but clinch a spot in the Olympic women's hockey semifinals. It was the quickest three-goal sequence in Olympic history, with the last two coming just eight seconds apart.

Kessel also had an assist on Coyne's goal and another in the first period. Asked by a reporter to describe her goals, Kessel said: "I can't really remember them all."

Lamoureux and Coyne also scored twice for the Americans, and Molly Schaas made 10 saves in her Sochi debut. With a 2-0 record, the U.S. is in position for a spot in the medal round regardless of what happens on Wednesday in the game against Canada, the marquee matchup of the round-robin.

Canada was scheduled to play Finland on Monday night in its last tuneup before the North American grudge match.

Switzerland lost for the second time and likely is headed for a spot in the quarterfinals against one of the top two teams in the bottom-tier.

Hilary Knight and Alex Carpenter also scored for the United States, which led 5-0 after one period and outshot the Swiss 53-10. Florence Schelling, who played at Northeastern, made 44 saves for Switzerland against Schaas, of Boston College, on the morning of the Beanpot finals where their schools will play for the men's hockey bragging rights of Boston.

"We know we're going to get lots of shots and goals against us, but we'll tell each other let's just keep going no matter what the score is," Swiss forward Jessica Lutz said. "They got five goals early on, but after that we stuck with it. They didn't have goals for



MATT SLOCUM/AP

Goalkeeper Florence Schelling of Switzerland watches as Amanda Kessel of the United States slides the puck into the net in the first period of their women's hockey game at Shayba Arena on Monday in Sochi, Russia. The United States scored five goals in the first period and routed Switzerland 9-0.

a while. That's success for us."

The biggest mismatch so far in the women's hockey round-robin was scoreless for half a period before Lamoureux gave the Americans the lead and Decker added

one 47 seconds later. Kessel got the puck off the ensuing faceoff, skated into the zone on the left side, passed the puck to herself off the boards to get around a defender and then cut in front of the

net, where she beat Schelling. "I've been watching them do that all year," said Schaas, who was the backup for the first game and didn't see much action in this one, either.

## Weight: Russia has pressure, but Canada is favorite

### FROM BACK PAGE

ting shut out entirely in the last two Olympics despite their wealth of world-class talent.

"When you've got great players like (Evgeni) Malkin, (Pavel) Datsyuk and Ovechkin, everybody thinks they're going to carry them to the gold medal," said Igor Larionov, Russia's three-time Olympic medalist and Hall of Famer. "It will be interesting to see how they handle the pressure."

In his jaw-dropping 18th international competition for Russia, the stalwart Ovechkin tops a lineup that includes top NHL goalie Sergei Bobrovsky and KHL scoring stars Ilya Kovalchuk and Alexander Radulov.

With a home-crowd push and the ostensible advantage of their familiarity with the wider international rink, the Russians are well-positioned — but heavy and expectation have weighed immensely on these players since they crashed out of Turin and Vancouver.

"We always hope that because there's only one puck, they're going to be in trouble," Selanne said. "They all need the puck, so that's what we always hope. I don't think anybody can match their talent, but it's a team sport, and there's still only one puck there."

Canada is equally loaded, and Crosby will wear the maple leaf for the first time since scoring the overtime winner against the Americans to end the Vancouver Olympics. But the favored Canadians still haven't won a gold medal outside of North America since 1952, and their lineup is bulky and physical, which could be a liability in a speed-based international game.

"I like our Canadian team," Gretzky said. "I think we have a lot of depth. To me, it's always an advantage when the best player in the world is on your team, and I think Crosby is

## Russians hit ice without Datsyuk

By LARRY LAGE  
The Associated Press

SOCHI, Russia — The Russians practiced for the first time on Monday since NHL players arrived for the Olympics, and captain Pavel Datsyuk was the only skater not on the ice.

An injury recently kept Datsyuk out of the Detroit Red Wings' lineup for more than a month.

Datsyuk was in Detroit's last two games before the Olympic break, playing less than he usually does. It was the first time he played since the Winter Classic on New Year's Day.



Datsyuk

the best player in the world."

The Americans don't have incredible star power, but they're quite fast — and they might have the tournament's best goaltending combo in Ryan Miller and Jonathan Quick.

Sweden is loaded with offense led by the Sedin twins, and goalie Henrik Lundqvist is a proven international star.

Selanne and the Finns can't match others'

depth, but they've won four medals in the last five Olympics — more than any other nation.

Jaromir Jagr leads a lively Czech team into his fifth Olympics, while the popular dark horse pick is Switzerland, which finished second at last year's world championships.

The gold-medal game at the Bolshoi Ice Dome on Feb. 23 is the grand finale to the Sochi Olympics. Russians fans are hoping its talented team holds up under the weight of a nation.

"Just like the Canada guys in Vancouver 2010, a lot of pressure," said Sergei Fedorov, a two-time Russian Olympian and former NHLer. "Maybe more. Our fans might be a little tougher."

Pittsburgh Penguins forward Sidney Crosby will captain Canada, the favorites to win the gold medal in Sochi.

By ERNEST CANWEST  
News Service/MCT



## OLYMPICS

## Medals roundup

# Mulder leads Dutch sweep in 500

The Associated Press

SOCHI, Russia — Michel Mulder led another Dutch sweep at the Olympic speedskating oval Monday, edging teammate Jan Smeekeens by 12-thousandths of a second, while Mulder's identical twin brother Ronald got the bronze.

It was the first gold medal ever in the men's 500 for the Netherlands, which became the first country to take the top three spots in the sport's most furious race.

Smeekeens led after the first of two heats and initially thought he had earned a tie for the gold after he crossed the line. But the clock adjusted the official times, giving Michel Mulder the gold with a total of 1 minute, 9.312 seconds — carried out to the thousandths of a second in the official results to show just how close it was.

The silver went to Smeekeens in 1:09.324, while Ronald Mulder grabbed the bronze with the fastest run of the day, 34.49 in the second round to finish at 1:09.46.

"I didn't really realize what time I needed," Michel Mulder said. "In the past, I have lost races by one-hundredths a few times. It was so unbelievable."

Indeed, he lost to Mo Tae-bum by that margin at the 2012 world single-distance championships in Heerenveen.

"Now, Olympic champion," Mulder said.

Mo, the defending Olympic champion from South Korea, was fourth this time. The other medalists from the 2010 Winter Games took the next two spots: 2010 bronze winner Joki Kato of Japan edged fifth, while countryman Janine reining silver medalist Keiichiro Nagashima sixth.

Smeekeens led after the opening heat, posting a time of 34.59 seconds to claim the coveted final race of the second round, which meant he would know the time to beat.

Turns out, he just missed. Smeekeens thought he had tied it when the scoreboard flashed the unofficial time, slapping his coach's hand and rocking his head back in delight. But the slight adjustment to the actual times — common in speedskating — forced him to settle for silver.

Mulder, watching the scoreboard intently from the infield, began jumping around in delight when he realized the gold was his. And having his twin brother on the medal stand with him only made it sweeter.

Smeekeens looked heartbroken in the moment, and still seemed a little dazed when he came to the podium for the flower ceremony, flanked by the beaming brothers. "I felt pure euphoria," Smeekeens said. "This is such a downer."

The Dutch are blowing away the competition at Adler Arena, also going 1-2-3 in the men's 5,000, with Sven Kramer taking gold, and taking the top spot in the women's 3,000 with Ireen Wust.



PATRICK SEMANSKY/AP

Michel Mulder of the Netherlands skates his way to gold during the second heat of the men's 500-meter speedskating race Monday in Sochi, Russia. His twin brother, Ronald, won bronze.

"This hasn't quite registered yet," Michel Mulder said. "This is so fantastic to see the three of us on the podium. We have become the top 500-meter nation. We worked very hard for this. It all went so fast."

The Americans aren't going nearly fast enough, and just like they've seen their lead in the overall speedskating gold medal standings snatched away. The U.S. came into Sochi with 29 Olympic medals at the Winter Games, two ahead of the Dutch.

The best American hope, three-time Olympian Tucker Fredricks of Janesville, Wis., struggled through two sluggish races and finished 26th out of 40 skaters, a staggering 1.68 off the combined pace of the gold medalist.

Shani Davis of Chicago, who uses the 500 merely as a tuneup for his better events, was the top U.S. finisher in 24th. Mitch Whitmore of Waukesha, Wis., was 27th and Brian Hansen of Glenview, Ill., dropped out after finishing 33rd in the first heat. Like Davis, Hansen treats the 500 merely as a training tool for his longer races.

## Biathlon

Martin Fourcade won gold and Jean Guillaume Beatrix earned bronze in Monday's 12.5-kilometer pursuit, putting France onto the medals table.

Bouncing back from a disappointing performance in the first biathlon event of the Games, the 10-kilometer sprint that set the starting positions for Monday's pursuit, Fourcade dominated the second half of the race and even

celebrated with one arm in the air before starting his final lap around the course at the Laura Cross Country Ski and Biathlon Center.

Fourcade missed one target in the standing shooting portion of the race, which he finished in 33 minutes, 48.6 seconds. Ondrej Moravec of Czech Republic finished 14.1 seconds later to take silver, and Beatrix was 24.2 seconds behind Fourcade in third.

Norway's Ole Einar Bjørndalen was fourth, missing out by 1.7 seconds on what would have been a record 13th Winter Olympics medal.

## Short-track speedskating

The Hamelin family of Canada got the Olympic short track competition off to a winning start.

Charles Hamelin skated clear of the chaos that makes short track so unpredictable, winning the 1,500 meters on Monday for his third different Olympic title. At 29, Hamelin was the oldest skater in the final. The wily veteran maintained a top-three position throughout most of the 14-lap race, leaving enough at the end to defeat a field.

"He deserves it," American J.R. Celski said. "He went out there and raced his [heart] off."

Hamelin raised his arms in triumph after crossing the finish line at the Iceberg Skating Palace. He pumped his right arm through the turn and went hard into the pads to first embrace his coach and then his father Yves, the team leader for Canada.

"It's so many emotions," Hamelin said. "I have put so much work

into it."

Hamelin will have two more chances to win individual gold in the 500 and 1,000, and he'll be part of Canada's team in the 5,000 relay.

Han Tianyu of China took silver. Viktor Ahn of Russia earned the bronze, giving his adopted country its first-ever short track medal. Celski, the 2010 bronze medalist from Federal Way, Wash., finished fourth.

## Men's ski jumping

Kamil Stoch of Poland made his first Olympic medal a gold one, winning the men's normal hill individual ski jump on Sunday after a stunning first-round jump put him in control.

Down the hill last among 50 starters in the first round, this season's World Cup leader had a jump of 105.5 meters, four meters better than Anders Bardal of Norway.

Peter Prevc of Slovenia, the 2013 world champion, overtook Bardal in the second round to take the silver. Bardal settled for the bronze.

The 26-year-old Stoch jumped 103.5 meters in the second round to give him the best jumps in each round and won by 12.7 points over Prevc.

Thomas Morgenstern of Austria, returning from serious injuries from a fall during training a month ago, was 14th. Simon Ammann of Switzerland, the defending champion from Vancouver in 2010 and who was seeking a record fifth Olympic gold medal, finished 17th.

## IOC: No mourning with armbands, stickers

SOCHI, Russia — The IOC is telling Olympic athletes they may not wear armbands or stickers during competition to commemorate the dead.

The Olympic body said Monday it sent a letter to Norwegian Olympic officials after four female cross-country wore black armbands in memory of an athlete's brother who died on the eve of the Games.

The International Olympic Committee also told freestyle skiers not to wear stickers on their helmets in tribute to Canadian halfpipe skier Sarah Burke, who died after a crash in training two years ago.

"We would say the competitions themselves, which are a place of celebration, are probably not the right place to really do that," IOC spokesman Mark Adams said. "We would like to keep that separate."

Burke died Jan. 19, 2012, nine days after a training accident on a halfpipe in Park City, Utah. She was 29.

Burke lobbied hard for inclusion of all the freeskier disciplines for women in the X Games and, ultimately, the Olympics. Some athletes had wanted to wear helmet stickers in tribute but were turned down by the IOC.

The Norwegians wore black armbands in Saturday's 15-kilometer skiathlon, the opening cross-country event of the Games.

## Snowboarders complain about halfpipe quality

The Olympic halfpipe only appears to be half-ready on the eve of the men's competition.

Riders dished widespread criticism of the course on Monday, less than 24 hours before two-time defending gold medalist Shaun White takes aim at a three-peat.

Hannah Tetter of the U.S., who won gold in Turin in 2006, called the halfpipe "crap," while American teammate Danny Davis said plenty of work needs to be done before competition begins.

Officials postponed practice on Monday from the morning until after sunset in hopes a dip in temperature would make conditions more conducive for riding. It didn't appear to help much.

Temperatures remained in the low-40s as dozens of riders took spills on the slush.

## Lolo quarantined after showing flu symptoms

American bobsledder Lolo Jones has gotten ill.

Jones tweeted Monday that she was in a "quarantine room" in the village. U.S. bobsled spokeswoman Amanda Bird confirmed Jones exhibited cold and flu symptoms, and that the move was precautionary.

Jones was back with teammates later Monday.

"Single room was nice just wish I had one of those stray dogs to keep me company," Jones tweeted, referring to the dogs who were spotted all over Sochi in the days before the Olympics opened.

Jones is a two-time hurdler in the Summer Olympics.

— The Associated Press

## OLYMPICS

## Ice skaters balance team, singles events

BY RACHEL COHEN  
The Associated Press

SOCHI, Russia — The fans in the arena loved the first Olympic figure skating team event.

They might have been a little biased, of course. What wasn't to like when host Russia won gold in a sport adored in this country?

The skaters themselves had mostly nice things to say about the inaugural competition, though their actions suggested slightly more ambivalent feelings.

The concept is popular. The actual logistics, maybe not so much. For the men in particular, the quick turnaround between the team free skate and the individual short program was a concern.

Two of the gold medal favorites, Canada's Patrick Chan and Japan's Yuzuru Hanyu, did not take the ice Sunday, saving energy for the singles event, which starts Thursday. Under the team competition rules, each country could switch up its entry between the short and long programs for two of the four disciplines.

"It feels good to be able to hand it off," Chan said Thursday after his short program, speaking about figure skating's version of passing the baton. "Come the 13th, I don't want to hand it off, of course."

The flexibility made the team event feasible, if a bit less credible and exciting when the top skaters weren't always on the ice.

There were plenty of empty seats throughout the team competition, though that has also been the case in other venues. The fans who showed up seemed to be having a blast; there's no way of knowing what the atmosphere would have been like had the Russians struggled.

NBC's prime-time ratings have been strong so far.

Alexei Mishin, Evgeni Plushenko's coach, says fans can't get enough figure skating.

"Very popular, very beautiful sport," he said. "Four medals — ridiculous. Five medals — better. Six?"



IVAN SEKRETAREV/AP

Canada's Patrick Chan, one of the favorites for a gold medal in men's figure skating, was happy to pass off the free skate program in the inaugural team skating competition in order to rest up for the start of the singles competition, which begins on Thursday.

**'I think you get a little bit of extra something when you know that there are others relying on you...'**

Charlie White  
US ice dancer

That would be more like it.

The limitations of the Olympic schedule make it difficult to give skaters more of a cushion. The team event started a day before the Opening Ceremony to squeeze all the competition in.

Four-time world champion Kurt Browning, doing commentary for Canadian broadcasters, suggests one solution: shifting the team competition to after the individual events.

Japan was a long shot for a medal, winding up fifth, though fans certainly would have enjoyed watching Hanyu skate again. Canada's calculus was more complicated because the country came in with team gold medal hopes. In the end, however, the Canadians would have taken silver even had Chan won the free skate because champion Russia racked up so many points in the rest of the programs.

The parents of American skaters Gracie Gold and Jason Brown were talking before the event about how the two teens chose figure skating partly because they didn't like the pressures of team sports. Ice dancer Charlie White, though, is a former hockey player and likes what the team event adds to the sport.

"I think you get a little bit of extra something when you know that there are others relying on you," he said, "and when you know you have the support of your teammates."



ALESSANDRO TROVATI/AP

Germany's Maria Hoefl-Riesch passes a gate in the slalom portion of the women's super-combined on her way to winning the gold medal Monday in Krasnaya Polyana, Russia.

## Hoefl-Riesch golden again

German wins super-combined; American Mancuso third

BY GRAHAM DUNBAR  
The Associated Press

KRASNAYA POLYANA, Russia — One gold down for Maria Hoefl-Riesch, and more chances to come.

The German skier won her third Olympic gold medal in only her sixth Olympic race Monday, using her slalom skills to surge ahead of her rivals and take the super-combined title.

"It's unbelievable. Of course, I was the big favorite for today," said Hoefl-Riesch, who retained her Olympic title in an event designed to test the best all-around skier. "But I had some problems on the downhill course."

Those problems left her in fifth place in the morning downhill, putting her more than one second behind Julia Mancuso's inspired run. But the defending Olympic champion in slalom overcame the time difference in the afternoon and finished 0.40 seconds faster than silver medalist Nicole Hosp of Austria.

Mancuso, who rarely skis slalom, battled down to finish third, 0.53 behind Hoefl-Riesch's two-run winning time of 2 minutes, 34.62 seconds.

Mancuso punched the air with her right fist after seeing she had won her fourth career Olympic medal in Alpine skiing. No other American woman has won more than two.

"I really thought I was blowing it in slalom," Mancuso said. "I had a great downhill run and knew there was nothing to lose."

Hoefl-Riesch is now poised to make Alpine history at the Sochi Olympics. With her third career gold medal, she is only one behind all-time leaders Kjetil Andre Aamodt of Norway and Janica Kostelic of Croatia.

"I don't think about records so much," said the 29-year-old Hoefl-Riesch, who missed the 2006 Turin Olympics because of injury. "If it happens, it's great. I'm not looking on this."

Hoefl-Riesch can match the retired greats on Wednesday in the downhill, an event in which she has three World Cup wins this season. She is also the current overall leader on the circuit.

On Monday, Hoefl-Riesch stood in the snow at the finish area to watch as Mancuso slalomed through the gates in the second leg. When the American's time flashed up on the giant screen, Hoefl-Riesch let her skis fall to the ground and then turned to face



CHRISTOPHE ENA/AP

Julia Mancuso celebrates after winning the bronze medal in the women's super-combined on Monday. It was her fourth career Olympic medal.

fans in the grandstand, placing her hands on her head then kneeling on the snow.

Hoefl-Riesch's victory matched Kostelic's back-to-back Olympic combined titles in 2002 and 2006. The Croatian won the traditional version, which includes two slalom runs.

Mancuso's Olympic tally includes two medals in super-combined, a gold in giant slalom from the 2006 Turin Olympics and a silver in downhill from the 2010 Vancouver Games.

She raised her level on the biggest stage again in the first of five women's events despite having a best result of only seventh on this season's World Cup circuit.

"It just brings that extra bit on intensity," said Mancuso, who also has five career world championship medals.

The event, which tests racers' all-around ability to be fast and technically correct, proved challenging, especially on a steep slalom track lit by floodlights on a cloudy afternoon.

Four of the 10 fastest downhill racers failed to get down the slalom, including Lara Gut of Switzerland, who had been second behind Mancuso.

One pre-race favorite for a medal, Marie-Michele Gagnon of Canada, crashed in the slalom and dislocated her shoulder. She hopes to keep competing.



## SPORTS



**Test of tolerance**  
Missouri DE Sam could be NFL's first openly gay player | **Page 25**

## OLYMPICS: MEN'S HOCKEY PREVIEW

# Weight of a nation

The Russian Federation men's ice hockey team runs through a play during practice at the Bolshoy Ice Dome on Sunday in Sochi, Russia. The Russians begin Olympic competition on Thursday against Slovenia.

JULIE JACOBSON/AP

## Russians face high stakes in own homeland

BY GREG BEACHAM  
The Associated Press

**S**idney Crosby and Canada are traveling halfway around the world in search of another golden moment. Sweden, Finland and the U.S. team arrive in Sochi brimming with NHL talent and intending to depart with medals.

While every elite hockey player in the world desperately wants to win his sport's biggest international tournament, nobody needs to win in Sochi like the host team and Alex Ovechkin, the peerless goal-scorer expected to put Russia back atop the Olympic podium.

"Russia is going to have a whole different kind of pressure," said Teemu Selanne, who will suit up for the Finns in his record-tying sixth Olympics. "And it's not easy to be that team."

The Olympic men's hockey competition is much more than a glorified All-Star week to the 150 NHL players exchanging their money-making jerseys for their national colors in 12 frantic days on the Black Sea coast. The NHL's stars are back at their fifth consecutive games, and the defending champion Canadians are largely favored to win their

### Inside:

■ America dominating 'new' Olympics, Page 27

■ Women's hockey: US blasts Switzerland, Page 29

■ Medals roundup: Dutch get another sweep of speedskating event, Page 30

■ Women's super-combined: Hoeffl-Riesch wins gold; American Mancuso takes bronze, Page 31

third gold medal in four Olympics.

Yet even Wayne Gretzky realizes all eyes in Sochi are squarely on the home team, saying the Russians will be "very difficult for any-

body to beat."

"There's a number of teams that can win," said Gretzky, who played for Canada in Nagano and built its gold-medal team in Salt Lake City. "It comes down to the same thing all the time: Best goaltender, and if your best player is the best player on the ice and the best line on the ice, your team is ultimately going to be the gold-medal winner."

The vaunted Soviet Union team claimed seven of the nine gold medals awarded between 1956 and 1988, but Russia hasn't won this tournament in 22 years. The Russians have just one silver and one bronze since Albertville in 1992, get-

**SEE WEIGHT ON PAGE 29**

**sochi 2014**



Russian Federation forward Ilya Kovalchuk

MARK HUMPHREY/AP

No. 1 Syracuse beats Clemson, now 23-0  
**College basketball, Page 24**

Orlando stuns East-leading Indiana  
**NBA roundup, Page 26**



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